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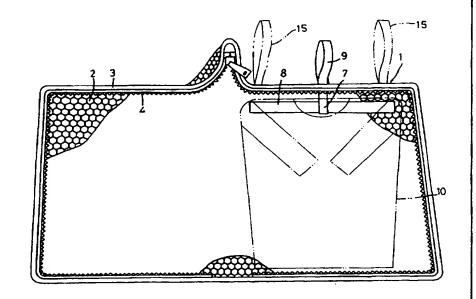
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(54) Title: WASHING METHOD AND AUXILIARY UTENSIL FOR WASHING

(54)発明の名称 洗濯方法および洗濯用補助具

(57) Abstract

A washing method using a washing net, and an auxiliary utensil for washing. An article (10) being washed, and a water permeable member (2) capable of defining a space for receiving the article, are overlapped one upon another by receiving the article (10) in the space, and are integrally rolled while overlapped. The article (10) being washed, and the water permeable member (2) in a rolled state are washed with water by a washing machine. The water permeable member (2) comprises a flexible, front side net, and a flexible, rear side net (32) positioned with a spacing from the front side net, the front side net and the rear side net being connected to each other elastically and displaceably.





洗濯ネットを用いた洗濯方法とそのための洗濯用補助具。洗濯物(10)とそれを収納する空間を構成可能な通水性部材(2)とを、その収納空間に洗濯物(10)を収納することで重ね、その重ねた状態で一体的にロール状に巻く。そのロール状に巻かれた状態で、洗濯物(10)と通水性部材(2)を洗濯機により水洗いする。通水性部材(2)は、可撓性を有する表面側のネットと、その表面側のネットに間隔をおいて配置された可撓性を有する褒面側のネット(32)とを、弾性的に相対変位可能に連結して符成する。

#### **少考价**口

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#### 明細書

### 洗濯方法および洗濯用補助具

### 技術分野

本発明は、洗濯物を洗濯機により水洗いする洗濯方法と、その方法に用いられる洗濯用補助具に関する。

### 背景技術

洗濯物を洗濯機により水洗いする際、洗濯槽内で旋回する水流により洗濯物が 型崩れするのを防止するため、洗濯ネットが用いられている。

その洗濯ネットとして、実開昭58-94480号公報に開示された球形の袋状のものや、特開平7-328279号公報に開示された半球形の袋状のものがある。

しかし、球形や半球形の袋状の洗濯ネットに洗濯物を収納して洗濯した場合、 洗濯ネット内で洗濯物が不均一に片寄ったり、丸まってしまう。そのため、洗濯 物の型崩れを充分に防止できない。

また、洗濯物の型崩れを防止できる洗濯機として、洗濯槽内に設けたネット上に洗濯物を載置し、その洗濯物の上方から水を滝状に落下させる構造を有するものがある。

従来の洗濯ネットは、水流から受ける衝撃や脱水時に受ける遠心力により、洗濯ネットが内部の洗濯物に対して相対的に動く。そうすると、洗濯物が洗濯ネットに擦られるため、傷み、毛玉、毛羽立ち等が生じ、また、洗濯物の型崩れを充分に防止できない。

洗濯物の上方から水を滝状に落下させる場合、洗濯物の型崩れは防止できるが





、特殊な洗濯機が必要になる。そのため、型崩れし易すい洗濯物、例えばドライクリーニングが推奨されるセーター等、を洗濯する場合、汎用の洗濯機を用いることができない。

さらに、洗濯物が縮み易い繊維からなる場合、従来の水洗い方法では縮みを防止できない。

そこで、袋状ネットに洗濯物を収納することで洗濯物とネットを重ね、この重ねた状態で、その洗濯物とネットをロール状に巻き、このロール状に巻かれた洗濯物と通水性部材を洗濯機により水洗いすることが、実開平5-13380号公報において開示されている。

しかし、洗濯物とネットをロール状に巻いただけでは、そのロール状の洗濯物の最外周部分がネットにより擦られる。そのため、洗濯物の傷み、毛玉、毛羽立ち等が発生するという問題がある。

本発明は、上記問題を解決することのできる洗濯方法と洗濯用補助具を提供することを目的とする。

#### 発明の開示

本発明の洗濯方法は、洗濯物とそれを収納する空間を構成可能な通水性部材とを、その収納空間に洗濯物を収納することで重ね、その重ねた状態で一体的にロール状に巻き、そのロール状に巻かれた状態で洗濯物と通水性部材を洗濯機により水洗いする場合に適用される。さらに、その洗濯物と通水性部材とを、重ねた状態で、少なくとも1つの折り目ができるように一体的に折り重ね、その折り重ねた洗濯物と通水性部材とをロール状に巻く場合に適用される。また、本発明の洗濯方法は、洗濯物とそれを収納する空間を構成可能な通水性部材とを、その収納空間に洗濯物を収納することで重ね、その重ねた状態で2つ以上の折り目ができるように一体的に折り重ね、その折り重ねた状態で洗濯物と通水性部を洗濯機

により水洗いする場合に適用される。

本発明によれば、洗濯物は、ロール状に巻かれた状態で、あるいは、少なくとも1つの折り目ができるように折り重ねられた後にロール状に巻かれた状態で、あるいは、2つ以上の折り目ができるように折り重ねられた状態で、洗濯される。よって、洗濯機による水洗い時における、洗濯物の不均一な片寄り、丸まり、型崩れ、および縮みを防止できる。

洗濯物のみをロール状に巻いた場合、洗濯物の内周側と外周側とが直接に接する。また、洗濯物のみを折り重ねた場合、洗濯物の互いに対向する面が直接に接する。そのため、洗濯物の中心まで達する水流が不足するので、充分な洗浄力を得ることができない。これに対し、本発明によれば、洗濯物を、通水性部材とを重ねた状態で、ロール状に巻き、あるいは、折り重ねる。よって、そのロール状の洗濯物の内周側と外周側との間に通水性部材が介在する。あるいは、折り重ねられた洗濯物の互いに対向する面の間に通水性部材が介在する。よって、洗濯物の中心まで達する水流が不足することはないので、充分な洗浄力を得ることができる。

さらに、その洗濯物と通水性部材を一体的に巻くので、洗濯物が通水性部材に 擦られることはない。これにより、洗濯物の傷み、毛玉、毛羽立ちの発生を防止 できる。

また、その通水性部材は収納空間を構成可能であり、その収納空間に洗濯物を収納することで、その洗濯物と通水性部材を重ねる。その重ねた状態で、その洗濯物と通水性部材はロール状に巻かれ、あるいは折り重ねられる。これにより、そのロール状の洗濯物の内周側と外周側との間、あるいは、折り重ねられた洗濯物の互いに対向する面の間に、通水性部材が確実に介在する。よって、充分な洗浄力を確実に得ることができる。

本発明方法の一つの特徴は、その通水性部材が、可撓性を有する表面側のネットと、この表面側のネットに間隔をおいて配置される可撓性を有する裏面側のネットとを、弾性的に相対変位可能に連結することで構成される点にある。

この構成によれば、ロール状の洗濯物の最外周部分を覆う通水性部材に、ある





いは、折り重ねられた洗濯物の最外側を覆う通水性部材に、水流による衝撃あるいは脱水のための遠心力が作用する時、表面側ネットは裏面側ネットに対して弾性的に相対変位する。よって、洗濯物に対する裏面側ネットの相対的な動きを抑制できる。これにより、そのロール状の洗濯物の最外周部分、あるいは、その折り重ねられた洗濯物の最外側部分が、ネットにより擦られるのを防止できる。よって、洗濯物の傷み、毛玉や毛羽立ちの発生を防止できる。

その表面側のネットと裏面側のネットの連結手段は、弾性的に撓み変形可能な複数の線状部により構成され、各線状部の一端が表面側のネットに連結され、各線状部の他端が裏面側のネットに連結されることで、両ネットは弾性的に相対変位可能とされ、各線状部相互の間に隙間が形成されているのが好ましい。

これにより、その表面側のネットと裏面側のネットとの間の隙間を水流が通過できるので、洗浄効果を向上できる。

本発明方法の別の特徴は、その通水性部材が、可撓性を有するネットと、このネットの一面側に連結される弾性的に撓み変形可能な複数の線状部とにより構成され、各線状部相互の間に隙間が形成され、各線状部は、洗濯物に接することができるように、前記収納空間の内部側に配置されている点にある。

この構成によれば、ロール状の洗濯物の最外周部分を覆う通水性部材に、あるいは、折り重ねられた洗濯物の最外側を覆う通水性部材に、水流による衝撃あるいは脱水のための遠心力が作用する時、ネットは線状部に対して弾性的に相対変位する。よって、洗濯物に対する線状部の相対的な動きを抑制できる。これにより、そのロール状の洗濯物の最外周部分、あるいは、その折り重ねられた洗濯物の最外側部分が、ネットにより擦られるのを防止できる。よって、洗濯物の傷み、毛玉や毛羽立ちの発生を防止できる。また、その線状部の間の隙間を水流が通過できるので、洗浄効果を向上できる。

その線状部は、両端が前記ネットに連結されることでリング状とされているのが好ましい。これにより、線状部が洗濯物に引っ掛かることはないので、洗濯物が線状部に擦られるのを防止できる。よって、洗濯物の傷み、毛玉や毛羽立ちの発生を防止できる。

本発明方法において、その洗濯物と通水性部材とを、心材を中心軸としてロール状に巻くのが好ましい。これによって、洗濯物と通水性部材とを容易にロール状に巻くことができる。

本発明の洗濯方法によれば、充分な洗浄効果を維持しつつ、洗濯物の型崩れ、縮み、傷み、毛玉、毛羽立ちの発生を防止できる。また、型崩れし易すい洗濯物、例えばドライクリーニングが推奨されるセーター等を、汎用の洗濯機により水洗いできる。

本発明が適用される洗濯用補助具は、洗濯物を収納する空間を構成可能な通水性部材を備え、その収納空間に収納される洗濯物と通水性部材とを、重ねた状態で一体的にロール状に巻くことができるように、その通水性部材は可撓性を有し、そのロール状に巻かれた洗濯物と通水性部材とが展開するのを防止する手段が設けられている。さらに、その通水性部材と洗濯物とを、重ねた状態で、少なくとも1つの折り目ができるように一体的に折り重ねることができ、且つ、折り重ねた状態でロール状に巻くことができる洗濯用補助具に適用される。また、本発明が適用される洗濯用補助具は、洗濯物を収納する空間を構成可能な通水性部材を備え、その収納空間に収納される洗濯物と通水性部材とを、重ねた状態で2つ以上の折り目ができるように一体的に折り重ねることができるように、その通水性部材は可撓性を有し、その折り重ねられた洗濯物と通水性部材とが展開するのを規制する手段が設けられている。

本発明の洗濯用補助具の特徴の一つは、その通水性部材が、可撓性を有する表面側のネットと、この表面側のネットに間隔をおいて配置される可撓性を有する裏面側のネットとを、弾性的に相対変位可能に連結することで構成される点にある。その通水性部材の厚さは2.0mm以上が好ましく、より好ましくは2.0mm~15.0mmである。その表面側のネットと裏面側のネットの連結手段は、弾性的に撓み変形可能な複数の線状部により構成され、各線状部の一端が表面側のネットに連結され、各線状部の他端が裏面側のネットに連結されることで、





両ネットは弾性的に相対変位可能とされ、各線状部相互の間に隙間が形成されているのが好ましい。

本発明の洗濯用補助具の別の特徴は、洗濯物を収納する空間を構成可能な通水性部材を備え、その収納空間に収納される洗濯物と通水性部材とを、重ねた状態で一体的にロール状に巻くことができるように、その通水性部材は可撓性を有し、そのロール状に巻かれた洗濯物と通水性部材とが展開するのを防止する手段が設けられ、その通水性部材は、可撓性を有するネットと、このネットの一面側に連結される弾性的に撓み変形可能な複数の線状部とにより構成され、各線状部相互の間に隙間が形成され、各線状部は、洗濯物に接することができるように、前記収納空間の内部側に配置されている点にある。その線状部は、両端が前記ネットに連結されることでリング状とされているのが好ましい。

本発明の洗濯用補助具において、その通水性部材に心材を、その洗濯物と通水性部材とをロール状に巻く際に中心軸になるように連結できるのが好ましい。

本発明の洗濯用補助具によれば、上記本発明の洗濯方法を実施することができる。

### 図面の簡単な説明

- 第1図は本発明の第1実施形態の洗濯用補助具の展開状態における正面図。
- 第2図は本発明の第1実施形態の洗濯用補助具の洗濯物収納状態における正面図。
  - 第3回は本発明の第1実施形態の通水性部材の部分斜視図。
- 第4図(1)は本発明の第1実施形態の表面側のネットと裏面側のネットとの相対変位前の状態を示す部分断面図、第4図(2)は、その相対変位後の状態を示す部分断面図。
- 第5図は本発明の第1実施形態の洗濯物と洗濯用補助具をロール状に巻く途中の斜視図。
- 第6図は本発明の第1実施形態のロール状に巻いた洗濯物と洗濯用補助具の斜 視図。

第7図は本発明の第1実施形態のロール状に巻いた洗濯物と洗濯用補助具の要部の断面図。

第8図は本発明の変形例の洗濯物と洗濯用補助具をロール状に巻く途中の斜視図。

第9図(1)、第9図(2)、第9図(3)は、本発明の変形例の洗濯物と通 水性部材とが展開するのを規制する部材を示す図。

第10図は本発明の第2実施形態の洗濯用補助具の展開状態での正面図。

第11図(1)は本発明の実施例に用いた洗濯物と洗濯用補助具の斜視図、第11図(2)は本発明の実施例に用いた洗濯用補助具の斜視図。

第12図(1)は本発明方法により洗濯されたウールセーターの表面の繊維形状を示す図面代用写真、第12図(2)は従来方法により洗濯されたウールセーターの表面の繊維形状を示す図面代用写真。

第13図(1)は本発明の第3実施形態の折り重ねた洗濯物と洗濯用補助具の 斜視図、第13図(2)は本発明の第4実施形態の折り重ねた洗濯物と洗濯用補助具の 財具の斜視図。

第14図(1)は本発明の第5実施形態の折り重ねた洗濯物と洗濯用補助具の 斜視図、第14図(2)は本発明の第6実施形態の折り重ねた洗濯物と洗濯用補助具の斜視図。

第15図(1)は本発明の第7実施形態の折り重ねた洗濯物と洗濯用補助具の 斜視図、第15図(2)は本発明の第8実施形態の折り重ねた洗濯物と洗濯用補助具の 射視図。

第16図は本発明の第9実施形態の通水性部材の部分斜視図。

第17図は本発明の第9実施形態の通水性部材の部分断面図。

#### 発明を実施するための最良の形態

以下、第1図~第7図を参照して本発明の第1実施形態を説明する。

第1図に示す洗濯用補助具1は、洗濯物を収納する空間を構成可能かつ可換性 を有する通水性部材2を備える。その通水性部材2は、平面視長方形で、その長 手方向寸法は短手方向寸法の略2倍とされている。この通水性部材2は、その長





手方向の中央において、短手方向に沿って2つ折りできる。この通水性部材2の外周に、布製の縁取り部3が取り付けられる。その縁取り部3にファスナー4が取り付けられる。そのファスナー4により、2つ折りにされた通水性部材2の外周の間の大部分が閉鎖される。これにより、第2図に示すように、その通水性部材2は袋状とされる。この袋状の通水性部材2の内部は洗濯物10の収納空間を構成する。洗濯物10は、その収納空間に収納されることで、通水性部材2に重ねられる。

その通水性部材 2 に円柱形のハンガー(心材) 8 を連結できる。すなわち、そのハンガー 8 は、その縁取り部 3 に縫い付けられた布製のリング 7 に挿入される。そのハンガー 8 に、上記収納空間に収納された洗濯物 1 0 を吊るすことができる。その縁取り部 3 に布製の吊り輪 9 が、洗濯物 1 0 を干すための物干し竿等を挿入できるように縫い付けられている。

第3図に示すように、その通水性部材2は、可撓性を有する表面側のネット31と、この表面側のネット31に間隔をおいて配置される可撓性を有する裏面側のネット32と、弾性的に撓み変形可能な複数の線状部33とを有する。各線状部33の一端は表面側のネット31に連結され、各線状部33の他端は裏面側のネット32に連結される。これにより、両ネット31、32は弾性的に相対変位可能である。すなわち、第4図(1)に示すように、相対的に弾性変形していない状態の両ネット31、32の間隔Dは、第4図(2)に示すように、各線状部33の弾性的な撓みにより狭められる。各線状部33相互の間に隙間35が形成されている。

各ネット31、32の網目形状は、本実施形態では6角形であるが、特に限定されない。各ネット31、32は、可撓性を有するもので足りるが、洗濯物を傷つけないように適度な柔软性を持つのが好ましい。本実施形態では、各ネット31、32は、複数本の合成樹脂性フィラメントを撚った糸を縄むことで構成される。各線状部33は、弾性的に換み変形可能であれば足りる。本実施形態では、各線状部33は、合成樹脂性フィラメントを表面側のネット31と裏面側のネット32とに交互に連結することで解成される。各線状部33を構成する合成樹脂

性フィラメントは、各ネット31、32を構成する合成樹脂性フィラメントより も太く剛性が大きい。

上記収納空間に洗濯物10を収納することで、上記通水性部材2と洗濯物10とは重ねられる。第5図に示すように、その通水性部材2と洗濯物10は、重ねられた状態で一体的に巻かれる。これにより、第6図に示すように、その通水性部材2と洗濯物10はロール状になる。この際、上記ハンガー8を中心軸として、その洗濯物10と通水性部材2を巻くことができる。第8図に示すように、その洗濯物10と通水性部材2を、2つのロール状に巻いてもよい。その洗濯物10と通水性部材2は、少なくとも3層以上に巻くのが好ましい。

第6図に示すように、そのロール状に巻かれた洗濯物10と通水性部材2に、通水性を有するネット状のゴム帯15が巻き付けられる。これにより、そのロール状に巻かれた洗濯物10と通水性部材2の展開が防止される。そのゴム帯15は、通水性部材2から分離されてもよい。あるいは、第1図、第2図において2点鎖線で示すように、そのゴム帯15を通水性部材2に連結してもよい。

そのロール状に巻かれた洗濯物10と通水性部材2の展開防止手段は特に限定されない。例えば、ボタン、フック、紐、面状ファスナー、ゴム、ピン、ジッパー、洗濯バサミ等を用いることができる。例えば、第9図(1)に示すように、バンド本体16の一方の面に面状ファスナーの雌部16aを、他方の面に面状ファスナーの雄部16bを設ける。第9図(2)に示すように、バンド本体17の一端に、そのバンド本体17の他端を挿通可能な複数の開口を有する連結具17aを取り付ける。第9図(3)に示すように、バンド本体18の一端に雌の連結具18aを取り付け、その雌の連結具18aに着脱可能な雄の連結具18bを他端に取り付ける。各展開防止手段は、通水性を有するように、ネット状構造等を有する。これにより、洗浄力低下を防止できる。

上記洗濯用補助具1を用いることで、洗濯物10と通水性部材2を、重ねた状態で一体的にロール状に巻き、次に、その洗濯物10と通水性部材2が展開され





るのをゴム帯 15により防止し、しかる後に、第6図に示すように、そのロール 状に巻かれた洗濯物 10と通水性部材 12を洗濯機 20により水洗いできる。

これにより、洗濯物10はロール状に巻かれた状態で洗濯されるので、洗濯機20による水洗い時に、洗濯物10の不均一な片寄り、丸まり、型崩れ、縮みを防止できる。

また、もし洗濯物10のみをロール状に巻いて洗濯した場合、そのロール状の洗濯物10の内周側と外周側とが直接に接する。この場合、洗濯物10の中心まで達する水流の不足により充分な洗浄力を奏することができない。これに対し、上記構成によれば、洗濯物10と通水性部材2とを重ねた状態でロール状に巻くので、第7図に示すように、そのロール状の洗濯物10の内周側10aと外周側10bとの間に通水性部材2が介在する。よって、洗濯物10の中心まで達する水流が不足することはないので、充分な洗浄効果を奏することができる。さらに、その洗濯物10と通水性部材2とを一体的に巻くので、洗濯物10が通水性部材2に擦られることはない。これにより、洗濯物10の傷み、毛玉、毛羽立ちの発生を防止できる。

その通水性部材 2 は収納空間を構成する。その収納空間に洗濯物 1 0 が収納されることで、その洗濯物 1 0 と通水性部材 2 とは重ねられる。この重ねられた状態の洗濯物 1 0 と通水性部材 2 とをロール状に巻くので、そのロール状の洗濯物 1 0 の内周側 1 0 a と外周側 1 0 b との間に通水性部材 2 が確実に介在する。これにより、充分な洗浄効果を確実に奏することができる。

第10図は、本発明の第2実施形態の洗濯用補助具1′を示す。第1実施形態との相違は、ファスナー4に代えて、縁取り部3の短手方向に沿う両縁部に、雄のボタン4aと雌のボタン4bとが取付けられている。また、ハンガー8は、通水性部材2の長手方向の略中央位置に連結されている。その通水性部材2は、その長手方向の一端から1/4程度の位置と、長手方向の他端から1/4程度の位置とにおいて、短手方向に沿って折られる。通水性部材2の短手方向に沿う両縁部は、そのボタン4a、4bを介して互いに連結される。これにより、洗濯物1

0と通水性部材2は重ねられ、しかる後にロール状に巻かれる。他は第1実施形態と同様で、同一部分は同一符号で示す。

第13図(1)は本発明の第3実施形態を示す。この第3実施形態においては、第1実施形態あるいは第2実施形態と同様の洗濯用補助具1、1′が用いられる。その第1、第2実施形態との相違は、収納空間に収納された洗濯物10と、この洗濯物10に重なる通水性部材2とを、ロール状に巻くことなく、2つの折り目50ができるように一体的に折り重ねる。その折り重ねられた洗濯物10と通水性部材2とが展開するのを、第1実施形態と同様のゴム帯等の規制手段により規制する。その折り重ねられた状態で、洗濯物10を通水性部材2と共に洗濯機により水洗いする。各折り目50は、互いに平行とされる。また、一方の折り目50の谷側は、通水性部材2の一面側に配置され、他方の折り目50の谷側は、通水性部材2の一面側に配置される。他は上記各実施形態と同様の構成とされ、同一部分は同一符号で示す。

第13図(2)は本発明の第4実施形態を示す。第3実施形態との相違は、互いに平行な2つの折り目50の谷側は、通水性部材2の同一面側に配置される点にある。他は第3実施形態と同様である。

第14図(1)は本発明の第5実施形態を示す。第3実施形態との相違は、互いに平行な折り目50の数は3つとされている。また、相隣接する折り目50の一方の谷側は通水性部材2の一面側に配置され、他方の谷側は通水性部材2の一面と反対の面側に配置される。他は第3実施形態と同様である。

第14図(2)は本発明の第6実施形態を示す。第5実施形態との相違は、相隣接する折り目50の谷側は、共に通水性部材2の同一面側に配置される点にある。他は第5実施形態と同様である。

第15図(1)は本発明の第7実施形態を示す。第3実施形態との相違は、互







いに平行な折り目50の数は4つとされている。また、相隣接する折り目50の 一方の谷側は通水性部材2の一面側に配置され、他方の谷側は通水性部材2の一 面側と反対側に配置される。他は第3実施形態と同様である。

第15図(2)は本発明の第8実施形態を示す。第3実施形態との相違は、通水性部材2と洗濯物10の展開状態において、折り目50は直交する2つの直線上に形成される。一つの直線上の折り目50の谷側は、通水性部材2の一面側に配置される。他の一つの直線上の折り目50は、中点において二分され、その二分された折り目50の一方の谷側は通水性部材2の一面側に配置され、他方の谷側は通水性部材2の一面側と反対側に配置される。他は第3実施形態と同様である。

上記第3~第8実施形態によれば、洗濯物10は2つ以上の折り目ができるように折り重ねられた状態で洗濯される。よって、洗濯機による水洗い時に、洗濯物10の不均一な片寄り、丸まり、型崩れ、縮みを防止できる。また、洗濯物10のみを折り重ねて洗濯した場合、その折り重ねられた洗濯物10の対向面同志が直接に接するため、洗濯物10の中心まで達する水流が不足する。そのため、充分な洗浄効果を奏することができない。これに対し、上記構成によれば、洗濯物10と通水性部材2が介在する。これにより、洗濯物10の中心まで達する水流が不足することはなく、充分な洗浄効果を奏することができる。さらに、その洗濯物10と通水性部材2とを一体的に折り重ねるので、洗濯物10が通水性部材2に擦られることはない。これにより、洗濯物10の傷み、毛玉、毛羽立ちの発生を防止できる。また、その通水性部材2により構成される収納空間に収納された洗濯物10と通水性部材2とが折り重ねられる。よって、折り重ねられた洗濯物10の対向面間に通水性部材2が確実に介在するため、充分な線状効果を確実に奏することができる。

上記各実施形態における通水性部材2は、可撓性を有する表面側のネット31

と、この表面側のネット31に間隔をおいて配置される可撓性を有する裏面側のネット32とを、弾性的に相対変位可能に連結することで構成されている。よって、第1、第2実施形態では、ロール状の洗濯物10の最外周部分を覆う通水性部材2に、水流からの衝撃や脱水時の遠心力が作用しても、表面側ネット31が裏面側ネット32に対して弾性的に相対変位する。これにより、洗濯物10に対する裏面側ネット32の相対的な動きを抑制できる。また、第3~第8実施形態では、折り重ねられた洗濯物10の最外側部分を覆う通水性部材2に、水流からの衝撃や脱水時の遠心力が作用しても、表面側ネット31が裏面側ネット32に対して弾性的に相対変位する。これにより、洗濯物10に対する裏面側ネット32の相対的な動きを抑制できる。よって、第1、第2実施形態のロール状の洗濯物10の最外周部分、および、第3~第8実施形態の折り重ねられた洗濯物10の最外側部分がネット31に擦られるのを防止し、傷み、毛玉、毛羽立ちが生じるのを防止できる。

その表面側のネット31と裏面側のネット32の連結手段は、弾性的に撓み変形可能な複数の線状部33により構成される。各線状部33それぞれの一端は表面側のネット31に連結され、他端が裏面側のネット32に連結される。よって、両ネット31、32は弾性的に相対変位可能とされ、各線状部33相互の間に隙間35が形成されている。これにより、その表面側のネット31と裏面側のネット32との間の隙間35を水流が通過できるので、洗浄効果を向上できる。

第1、第2実施形態においては、その洗濯物10と通水性部材2とをハンガー8を中心軸としてロール状に巻く。よって、洗濯物10と通水性部材2とを容易にロール状に巻くことができる。

第1、第2実施形態と同様の洗濯用補助具1、1′を用い、収納空間に洗濯物 10が収納することで洗濯物10と通水性部材2とを重ね、この重ねた状態で、その洗濯物10と通水性部材2とを少なくとも1つの折り目ができるように一体的に折り重ね、その折り重ねた洗濯物と通水性部材とを一体的にロール状に巻き





、そのロール状に巻かれた洗濯物10と通水性部材2とが展開するのを第1実施 形態と同様のゴム帯等の規制手段により規制し、その折り重ねられると共にロー ル状に巻かれた状態で洗濯物10を通水性部材2と共に洗濯機により水洗いして もよい。これにより、上記各実施形態と同様の効果を奏することができる。

また、上記通水性部材2に代えて、第16図、第17図に示す第9実施形態の 通水性部材102を用いてもよい。その通水性部材102は、可撓性を有するネット131と、このネット131の一面側に連結される弾性的に撓み変形可能な 複数の線状部133により構成される。その線状部133は、両端がネット13 1に連結されることでリング状とされている。各線状部133相互の間に隙間が 形成される。この通水性部材102の内部を洗濯物を収納する空間とする場合、 その線状部133側が内方側とされる。これにより、その収納空間に収納される 洗濯物10に線状部133側が接するように、その洗濯物10と通水性部材10 2とは重ねられる。

そのネット131の網目形状は、本実施形態では菱形とされるが、特に限定されない。そのネット131は、可撓性を有するネットであれば良いが、洗濯物を傷つけない適度な柔軟性を持つものが好ましい。本実施形態では、そのネット131は、複数本の合成樹脂性フィラメントを撚った糸を編むことで構成される。各線状部133は、弾性的に撓み変形可能なものであればよい。本実施形態では、その線状部133は、ネット131を構成する合成樹脂性フィラメントよりも太く剛性の大きな合成樹脂性フィラメントの両端を、ネット131に連結することで構成されている。

本発明は上記実施形態に限定されない。例えば、通水性部材 2 を構成するネットの網目形状は特に限定されない。

#### 実施例1

本発明の洗濯方法と従来の洗濯方法との洗浄力を比較するため、洗濯科学協会 製の湿式人工汚染布10枚を衣料(ウールセーター)に縫い付け、全自動洗濯機 (松下電器産業株式会社製、NA・F60K1)により、その人工汚染布10枚と衣料を次の条件で洗浄した。

### (洗浄条件)

洗剤濃度: 0. 14重量%

使用洗剤:市販液体洗剤

水の温度:20℃

水の硬度: 4°DH

洗濯コース:標準コース

乾燥:20℃、65%RH、平干し

洗濯方法は以下の1~4とした。

洗濯方法1:洗濯用補助具を用いることなく、洗濯物をそのまま洗濯。

洗濯方法 2:第1実施形態の洗濯用補助具1を用い、第1実施形態と同様に、 通水性部材 2 と洗濯物 1 0 とを重ねた状態で一体的にロール状に巻き、そのロー ル状に巻かれた洗濯物 1 0 と通水性部材 2 とが展開するのを規制し、その規制状態で洗濯物 1 0 を通水性部材 2 と共に洗濯機により水洗いした。その通水性部材 2 の厚さは 4.0 mmとした。

洗濯方法3:第1実施形態の通水性部材2に代えて一層のネットにより構成される通水性部材を用いた以外は第1実施形態の同様の構成の洗濯用補助具を用い、通水性部材と洗濯物10とを重ね、その重ねた状態で通水性部材と洗濯物10とを一体的にロール状に巻き、そのロール状に巻かれた洗濯物と通水性部材とが展開するのを規制し、その規制状態で洗濯物を通水性部材と共に洗濯機により水洗いした。その通水性部材である一層のネットの厚さは2.2mmとした。

洗濯方法4:第11図(1)に示すように、洗濯物10のみをロール状に巻き、そのロール状に巻いた洗濯物10を一層のネットにより構成される袋状の洗濯用補助具50に収納し、第11図(2)に示すように、その洗濯用補助具50の開口をファスナー52により閉鎖した状態で洗濯機により水洗いした。

洗濯方法 5 : 第1実施形態の通水性部材 2 に代えて一層のネットにより構成される通水性部材を用いた以外は第1実施形態の同様の構成の洗濯用補助具を用い

、通水性部材と洗濯物10とを重ね、その重ねた状態で通水性部材と洗濯物10とを一体的にロール状に巻き、そのロール状に巻かれた洗濯物と通水性部材とが展開するのを規制し、その規制状態で洗濯物を通水性部材と共に洗濯機により水洗いした。その通水性部材である一層のネットの厚さは0.75mmとした。

汚染前の原布および洗浄前後の汚染布の550nmにおける反射率を測色色差計(日本電色(株)製Z-300A)にて測定し、次式によって洗浄率(%)を求めた。この洗浄率は洗浄力に対応する。

洗浄率=100×(洗浄後汚染布の反射率-未洗浄汚染布の反射率)/(白布 (汚染前)の反射率-未洗浄汚染布の反射率)

各洗濯方法による汚染布10枚の平均洗浄率は以下の通りであった。

洗濯方法1…18%

洗濯方法 2 … 1 5 %

洗濯方法3…12%

洗濯方法 4 … 8 %

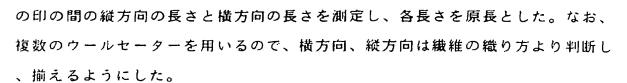
洗濯方法5…8.5%

## 実施例2

本発明の洗濯方法と従来の洗濯方法との洗濯物の収縮程度を比較するため、以下のように調整したウールセーターを試験布として用い、以下の洗濯条件で実施例1の洗濯方法1~洗濯方法4と同様にして洗濯を行ない、面積収縮率を求めた

#### (1)試験布の調製

大きさL寸の複数のウールセーターを20℃、65%RHで12時間以上調湿 した。各ウールセーターに1辺が15cmの正方形になるように油性のサインペ ンで4カ所に印を付けた。それぞれのウールセーターに番号を記した。それぞれ



#### (2) 洗濯条件

全自動洗濯機(松下電器産業株式会社製NA-F60K1型)を用いて、上記(1)で調製したウールセーターを1枚ずつ標準コースで洗濯した。各洗剤濃度は0.14重量%とし、水温は20℃とした。洗濯終了後、20℃、65%RHで24時間以上乾燥調湿した。その後、上記(1)で付した印について再度それらの長さを測定し、この値より収縮率を算出した。さらに面積収縮率を求めた。収縮率は縦方向及び横方向において別々に求めた。

その収縮率と面積収縮率は下記式により算出した。各ウールセーターにおいて、洗濯前の測定値(原長)をR. M. 、洗濯後の測定値をW. M. とし、それぞれ測定結果の平均値を用いた。また、収縮率は、各ウールセーターにおいて横方向の収縮率をW. S. 、縦方向の収縮率をL. S. とした。

#### 〔収縮率の算出〕

収縮率(%)=100×(R. M. -W. M.)/R. M.

#### 〔面積収縮率の算出〕

面積収縮率(%)=(W.S.+L.S.)-(W.S.×L.S.)/100

各洗濯方法による面積収縮率は以下の通りであった。

洗濯方法 1 … 1 5 . 2 %

洗濯方法 2 … 2 . 8 %

洗濯方法 3 … 3. 1%

洗濯方法 4 … 3 . 0 %

## 実施例3





本発明の洗濯方法と従来の洗濯方法との洗濯物の毛羽立ちの発生程度を比較す るため、ウールセータを、上記実施例1の洗濯方法1と洗濯方法2とにより、2 榑式洗濯機により、20℃の水温下、弱水流で3分、ため濯ぎ1分の水洗いを行 ない、脱水30秒を2回行ない、洗濯終了後、20℃、65%RHで乾燥し、そ の表面状態を比較した。

第12図(1)は、本発明の洗濯方法2により洗濯したウールセータの表面状 熊(拡大倍率22.5倍)を示し、第12図(2)は、従来の洗濯方法1により 洗濯したウールセータの表面状態(拡大倍率22.5倍)を示す。

### 実施例4

本発明の洗濯方法と従来の洗濯方法のシワの発生程度を比較するため、ウール セーターを、全自動洗濯機(松下電器産業株式会社製、NA・F60K1)によ り、実施例1と同一の洗浄条件で洗浄した。

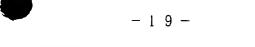
洗濯方法は以下の1~3とした。

洗濯方法1:第1実施形態の洗濯用補助具に洗濯物を入れ、折り重ねたりロー ル状に巻くことなく、そのまま洗濯。

洗濯方法2:第1実施形態の洗濯用補助具1に洗濯物を入れ、第13図(2) に示す第4実施形態と同様に、洗濯物と通水性部材とを重ねた状態で2つの折り 目ができるように一体的に折り重ね、その折り重ねられた洗濯物と通水性部材と が展開するのを規制し、その規制状態で洗濯物を通水性部材と共に洗濯機により 水洗いした。

洗濯方法3:第1実施形態の洗濯用補助具1に洗濯物を入れ、第14図(2) に示す第6実施形態と同様に、洗濯物と通水性部材とを重ねた状態で3つの折り 目ができるように一体的に折り重ね、その折り重ねられた洗濯物と通水性部材と が展開するのを規制し、その規制状態で洗濯物を通水性部材と共に洗濯機により 水洗いした。

その洗濯方法」によれば、洗濯物の全体にシワがよった。これに対し、本願発



明に係る洗濯方法2と洗濯方法3によれば、シワが若干ある程度で目立つことはなかった。また、洗濯方法2と洗濯方法3では、上記折り目の数の多い洗濯方法3の方がシワが少なかった。

## 実施例5

本発明の洗濯方法と従来の洗濯方法との洗濯物の収縮程度を比較するため、実施例2と同様にして調整したウールセータを試験布として用い、実施例2と同様の洗濯条件で、実施例4の洗濯方法1~洗濯方法3と同様にして洗濯を行ない、 実施例2と同様にして面積収縮率を求めた。

各冼濯方法による面積収縮率は以下の通りであった。

洗濯方法1…8%

洗濯方法 2 … 4 %

洗濯方法 3 … 3 %

上記実施例1から、本発明による洗濯方法2、3によれば、洗濯物のみをロール状に巻いて洗濯用補助具に収納した洗濯方法4に比べ、洗濯用補助具を使用しない洗濯方法1からの洗浄力の低下が少なく、充分な洗浄力を奏することを確認できる。

また、上記実施例 2 から、本発明による洗濯方法 2 、 3 によれば、洗濯用補助 具を使用しない洗濯方法 1 に比べ、洗濯物の収縮が大幅に改善されるのを確認で きる。

また、上記実施例3から、本発明による洗濯方法2によれば、洗濯用補助具を使用しない洗濯方法1に比べ、洗濯物の毛羽立ちの発生が大幅に改善されるのを確認できる。

また、上記実施例 4 から、本発明による洗濯方法 2 、 3 によれば、洗濯物を単に洗濯用補助具にいれるだけの従来の洗濯方法 1 に比べ、洗濯物と通水性部材とを折り重ねることで、その折り目により洗濯物の補助具に対する動きを規制して不均一に片寄るの防止し、シワの発生を低減できることを確認できた。

また、上記実施例 5 から、本発明による洗濯方法 2 、 3 によれば、洗濯物を単に洗濯用補助具にいれるだけの洗濯方法 1 に比べ、洗濯物の収縮が大幅に改善されるのを確認できる。

#### 請求の範囲

1. 洗濯物とそれを収納する空間を構成可能な通水性部材とを、その収納空間に 洗濯物を収納することで重ね、その重ねた状態で一体的にロール状に巻き、その ロール状に巻かれた状態で洗濯物と通水性部材を洗濯機により水洗いするに際し

その通水性部材を、可撓性を有する表面側のネットと、この表面側のネットに 間隔をおいて配置される可撓性を有する裏面側のネットとを、弾性的に相対変位 可能に連結することで構成することを特徴とする洗濯方法。

2. その表面側のネットと裏面側のネットの連結手段は、弾性的に撓み変形可能な複数の線状部により構成され、

各線状部それぞれの一端が表面側のネットに連結され、他端が裏面側のネット に連結されることで、両ネットは弾性的に相対変位可能とされ、

各線状部相互の間に隙間が形成されている請求項1に記載の洗濯方法。

3. 洗濯物とそれを収納する空間を構成可能な通水性部材とを、その収納空間に洗濯物を収納することで重ね、その重ねた状態で一体的にロール状に巻き、そのロール状に巻かれた状態で洗濯物と通水性部材を洗濯機により水洗いするに際し

その通水性部材を、可撓性を有するネットと、このネットの一面側に連結される弾性的に撓み変形可能な複数の線状部とにより構成し、

各線状部相互の間に隙間が形成され、

その線状部側が洗濯物に接するように、洗濯物と通水性部材とを重ねる洗濯方法。

- 4. その線状部は、両端が前記ネットに連結されることでリング状とされている 請求項3に記載の洗濯方法。
- 5. 洗濯物と通水性部材とを、重ねた状態で、少なくとも1つの折り目ができる





ように一体的に折り重ね、その折り重ねた洗濯物と通水性部材とをロール状に巻く請求項1~4の中の何れかに記載の洗濯方法。

- 6. その洗濯物と通水性部材とを心材を中心軸としてロール状に巻く請求項1または3に記載の洗濯方法。
- 7. 洗濯物とそれを収納する空間を構成可能な通水性部材とを、その収納空間に洗濯物を収納することで重ね、その重ねた状態で2つ以上の折り目ができるように一体的に折り重ね、その折り重ねた状態で洗濯物と通水性部を洗濯機により水洗いするに際し、

その通水性部材を、可撓性を有する表面側のネットと、この表面側のネットに間隔をおいて配置される可撓性を有する裏面側のネットとを、弾性的に相対変位可能に連結することで構成することを特徴とする洗濯方法。

8. その表面側のネットと裏面側のネットの連結手段は、弾性的に撓み変形可能な複数の線状部により構成され、

各線状部それぞれの一端が表面側のネットに連結され、他端が裏面側のネット に連結されることで、両ネットは弾性的に相対変位可能とされ、

各線状部相互の間に隙間が形成されている請求項7に記載の洗濯方法。

9. 洗濯物とそれを収納する空間を構成可能な通水性部材とを、その収納空間に洗濯物を収納することで重ね、その重ねた状態で2つ以上の折り目ができるように一体的に折り重ね、その折り重ねた状態で洗濯物と通水性部を洗濯機により水洗いするに際し、

その通水性部材を、可撓性を有するネットと、このネットの一面側に連結される弾性的に撓み変形可能な複数の線状部とにより構成し、

各線状部相互の間に隙間が形成され、

その線状部側が洗濯物に接するように、洗濯物と通水性部材とを重ねる洗濯方法。

- 10. 前記線状部は、両端が前記ネットに連結されることでリング状とされている請求項9に記載の洗濯方法。
- 11. 洗濯物を収納する空間を構成可能な通水性部材を備え、

その収納空間に収納される洗濯物と通水性部材とを、重ねた状態で一体的にロール状に巻くことができるように、その通水性部材は可撓性を有し、

そのロール状に巻かれた洗濯物と通水性部材とが展開するのを防止する手段が 設けられ、

その通水性部材は、可換性を有する表面側のネットと、この表面側のネットに 間隔をおいて配置される可換性を有する裏面側のネットとを、弾性的に相対変位 可能に連結することで構成されていることを特徴とする洗濯用補助具。

12. その表面側のネットと裏面側のネットの連結手段は、弾性的に撓み変形可能な複数の線状部により構成され、

各線状部の一端が表面側のネットに連結され、各線状部の他端が裏面側のネットに連結されることで、両ネットは弾性的に相対変位可能とされ、

各線状部相互の間に隙間が形成されていることを特徴とする請求項11に記載 の洗濯用補助具。

13.洗濯物を収納する空間を構成可能な通水性部材を備え、

その収納空間に収納される洗濯物と通水性部材とを、重ねた状態で一体的にロール状に巻くことができるように、その通水性部材は可撓性を有し、

そのロール状に巻かれた洗濯物と通水性部材とが展開するのを防止する手段が 設けられ、

その通水性部材は、可撓性を有するネットと、このネットの一面側に連結される弾性的に撓み変形可能な複数の線状部とにより構成され、

各線状部相互の間に隙間が形成され、

各線状部は、洗濯物に接することができるように、前記収納空間の内部側に配







## 置されている洗濯用補助具。

- 14. 前記線状部は、両端が前記ネットに連結されることでリング状とされている請求項13に記載の洗濯用補助具。
- 15. その通水性部材に心材を、その洗濯物と通水性部材とをロール状に巻く際に中心軸になるように、連結できる請求項11~14の中の何れかに記載の洗濯用補助具。
- 16. その通水性部材と洗濯物とを、重ねた状態で、少なくとも1つの折り目ができるように一体的に折り重ねることができ、且つ、折り重ねた状態でロール状に巻くことができる請求項11または13に記載の洗濯用補助具。
- 17. 洗濯物を収納する空間を構成可能な通水性部材を備え、

その収納空間に収納される洗濯物と通水性部材とを、重ねた状態で2つ以上の 折り目ができるように一体的に折り重ねることができるように、その通水性部材 は可撓性を有し、

その折り重ねられた洗濯物と通水性部材とが展開するのを規制する手段が設けられ、

その通水性部材は、可撓性を有する表面側のネットと、この表面側のネットに 間隔をおいて配置される可撓性を有する裏面側のネットとを、弾性的に相対変位 可能に連結することで構成されていることを特徴とする洗濯用補助具。

18. その表面側のネットと裏面側のネットの連結手段は、弾性的に撓み変形可能な複数の線状部により構成され、

各線状部の一端が表面側のネットに連結され、各線状部の他端が裏面側のネットに連結されることで、両ネットは弾性的に相対変位可能とされ、

各線状部相互の間に隙間が形成されていることを特徴とする 育求項17 に記載 の洗濯用補助具。 19. 洗濯物を収納する空間を構成可能な通水性部材を備え、

その収納空間に収納される洗濯物と通水性部材とを、重ねた状態で2つ以上の 折り目ができるように一体的に折り重ねることができるように、その通水性部材 は可撓性を有し、

その折り重ねられた洗濯物と通水性部材とが展開するのを規制する手段が設けられ、

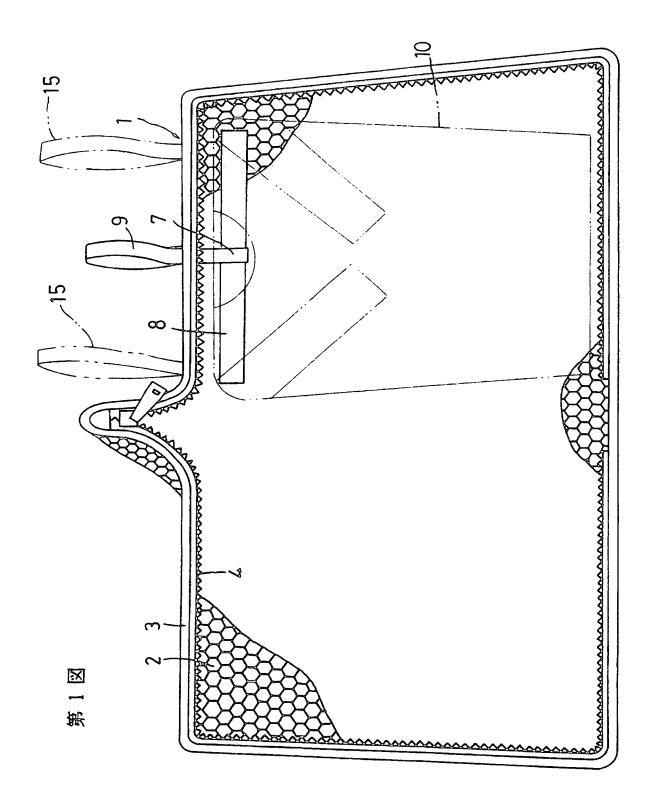
その通水性部材は、可撓性を有するネットと、このネットの一面側に連結される弾性的に撓み変形可能な複数の線状部とにより構成され、

各線状部相互の間に隙間が形成され、

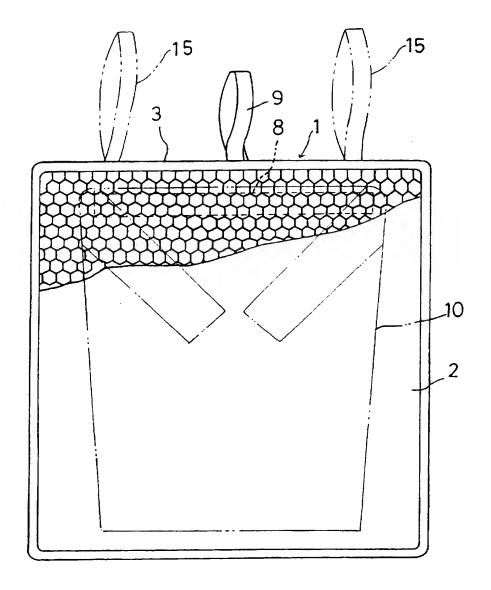
各線状部は、洗濯物に接することができるように、前記収納空間の内部側に配置されている洗濯用補助具。

20. 前記線状部は、両端が前記ネットに連結されることでリング状とされている請求項19に記載の洗濯用補助具。

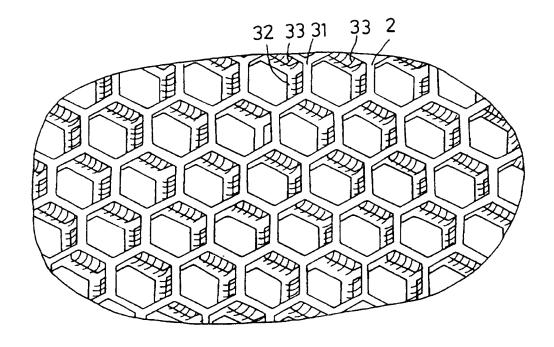




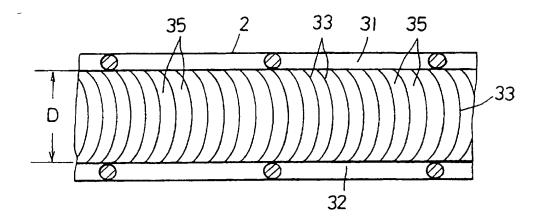
第 2 図



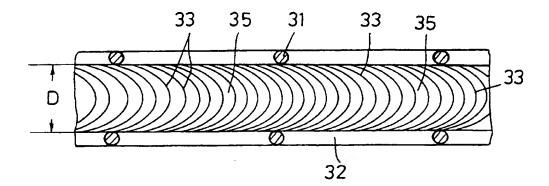
第 3 図



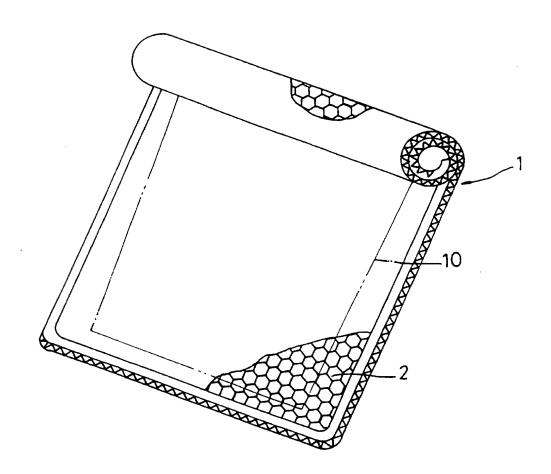
第4図(1)



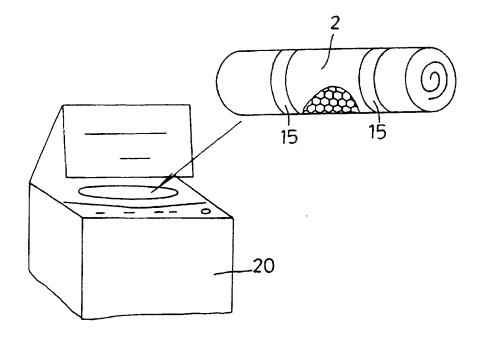
第4図(2)



第 5 図

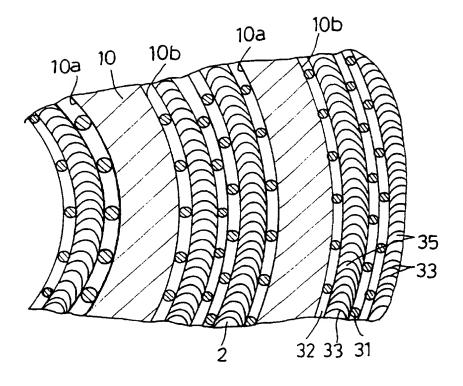


第 6 図

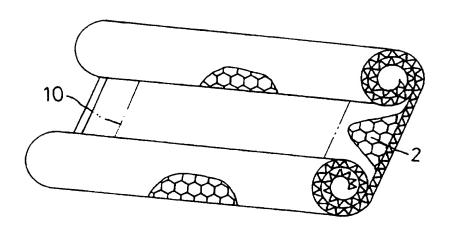




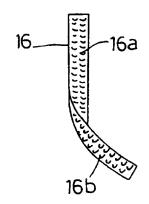
## 第 7 図



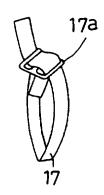
第 8 図



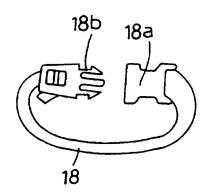
## 第9図(1)

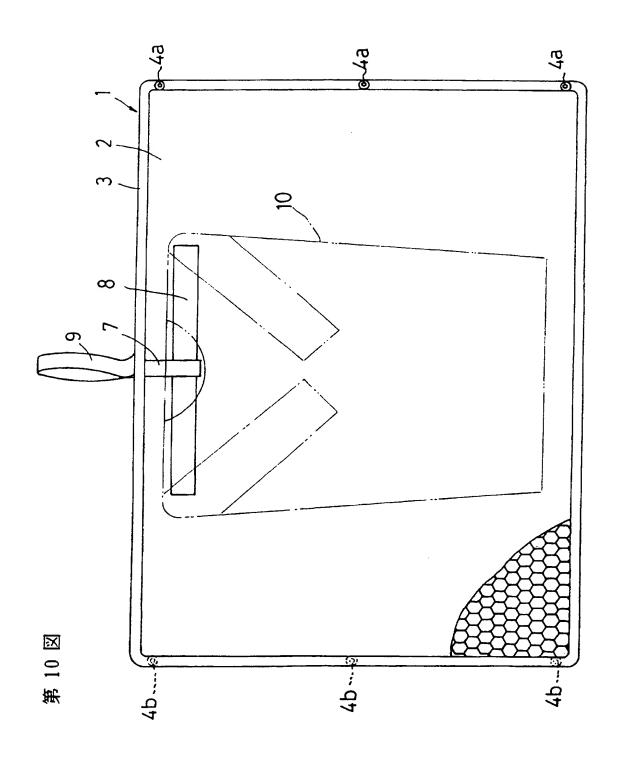


# 第9図(2)

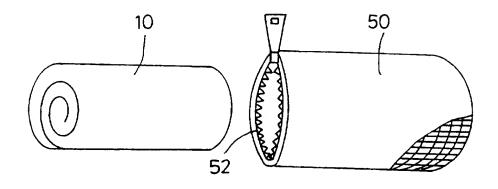


## 第9図(3)

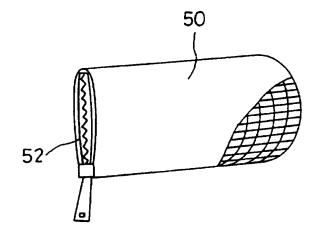




# 第 11 図(1)



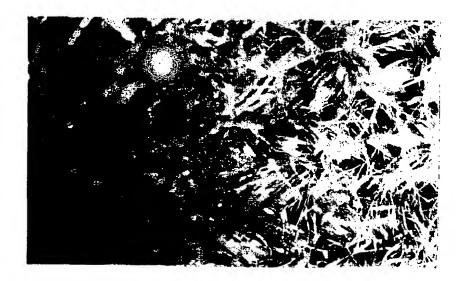
第 11 図(2)



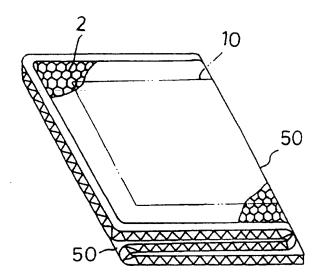
第12図(1)



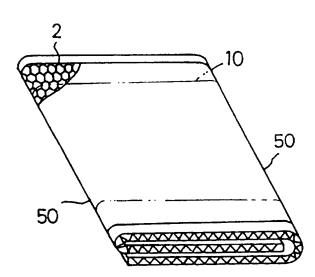
第 12 図(2)



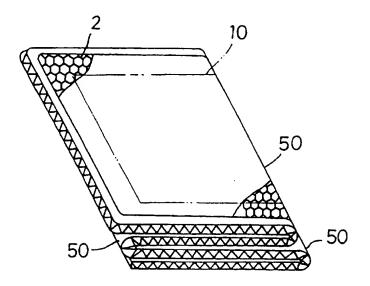
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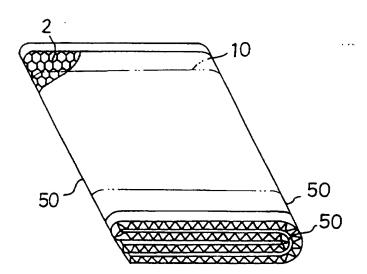
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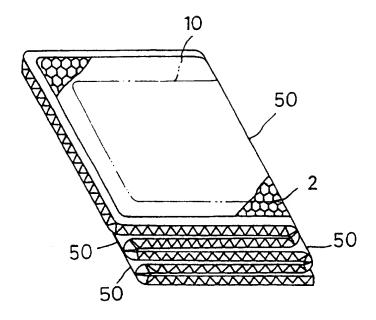
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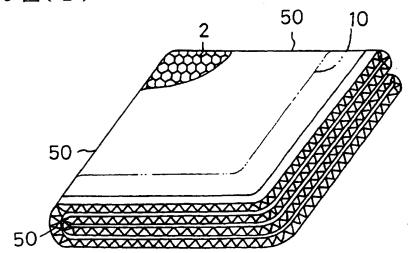
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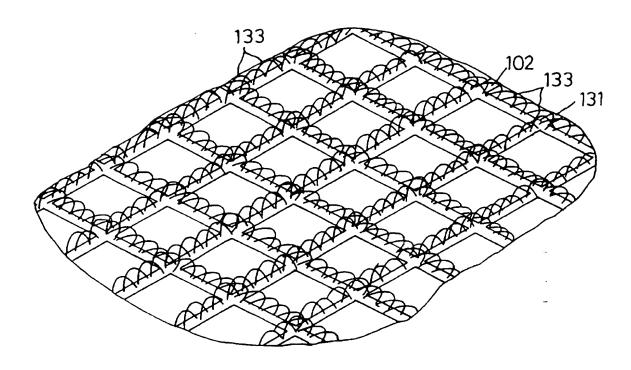
第 15 図(1)



第 15 図(2)

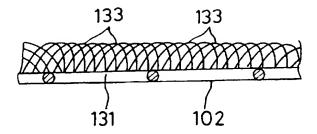


第 16 図





第 17 図





### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP97/02538

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER				
Int. Cl <sup>6</sup> D06F35/00, B65D30/06				
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to bo	th national classification and IPC			
B. FIELDS SEARCHED				
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed				
Int. Cl <sup>6</sup> D06F35/00, B65D30/06				
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the		- C-ldbad		
Jitsuvo Shinan Koho	1926 - 1997	ne fields scarched		
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1971 - 1995 1994 - 1997			
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name	e of data base and, where practicable, search t	terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category* Citation of document, with indication, where	appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
JP, 6-312084, A (K.K. Daiy				
November 8, 1994 (08. 11.				
Y Par. No. (0040), lines 1 to		1, 2, 7, 8,		
		11, 12, 17,		
A Par. No. (0040), lines 1 to	o 10	5, 6, 15,		
(Family: none)		16		
JP, 7-12083, U (Daikoku Ko	avo K K )			
February 28, 1995 (28. 02.				
Y Par. No. (0007), lines 3 to		3, 9, 13,		
A Par. No. (0007), lines 3 to	0.5	19 4-6, 10,		
(Family: none)		14-16, 20		
TD 5 13300 H (Kumika Cau	,			
JP, 5-13380, U (Kumiko Sou February 23, 1993 (23. 02.				
Y (Claim 1)		1-3, 11,		
2 (Claim 1)		12, 13 4-6, 14-16		
A (Claim 1) (Family: none)		4-0, 14-10		
X Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.				
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lame and mailing address of the ISA/  Authorized officer				
Japanese Patent Office				
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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)



International application No.

PCT/JP97/02538

ategory*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim N
		.co.cvain to claim N
Y	JP, 7-289778, A (K.K. Sanai), November 7, 1995 (07. 11. 95), Par. No. (0013), lines 1 to 7	7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19
A	Par. No. (0013), lines 1 to 7 (Family: none)	10, 16, 20
1		



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調査を行った分野

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最小限資料以外の資料で調査を行った分野に含まれるもの

日本国登録実用新案公報 1994-1997

日本国実用新案公報

1926-1997

日本国公開実用新案公報 1971-1995

国際調査で使用した電子データベース(データベースの名称、調査に使用した用語)

C 関連する	5と認められる文献	
引用文献の		関連する
カテゴリー*	引用文献名 及び一部の箇所が関連するときは、その関連する箇所の表示	請求の範囲の番号
	JP, 6-312084, A (株式会社ダイヤコーポレーション), 08.11月	
	. 1994 (08. 11. 94),	
Y	【0040】第1-10行	1, 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17
		, 18
A	【0040】第1-10行	<b>5</b> , <b>6</b> , 1 <b>5</b> , 1 <b>6</b> ,
	(ファミリーなし)	
	JP, 7-12083, U (大黒工業株式会社), 28.2月.1995 (28	
	. 02. 95),	
Y	【0007】第3-5行	3, 9, 13, 19
A	【0007】第3-5行	4-6, 10, 14-16, 20
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#### X C欄の続きにも文献が列挙されている。

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国際調査を完了した日 17.10.97	国際調査報告の発送日 28.10.97		
国際調査機関の名称及びあて先 日本国特許庁(ISA/JP)	特許庁審査官 (権限のある職員) 3B 7817 岡田孝博		
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様式PCT/ISA/210 (第2ページ) (1992年7月)

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国際出願番号 PCT/JP97/02538

C (続き). 引用文献の カテゴリー* Y A	関連すると認められる文献  引用文献名 及び一部の箇所が関連するときは、その関連する箇所の表示	関連する 請求の範囲の番号 1-3,11,12,13
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Y	JP, 5-13380, U (宗 久美子), 23.2月.1993 (23.02 .93), 【請求項1】 【請求項1】	請求の範囲の番号
	. 93), 【請求項1】 【請求項1】	1-3 11 12 13
	【請求項 1 】 【請求項 1 】	1-3 11 12 13
Α		0, 11, 12, 13
		4-6, 14-16
	JP, 7-289778, A (株式会社サンアイ), 07. 11月. 1995, (07. 11. 95),	
Y	【0013】第1~7行	7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19
A	【0013】第1~7行 (ファミリーなし)	10, 16, 20
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## International patent published on

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## WASHING METHOD AND AUXILIARY UTENSIL FOR WASHING

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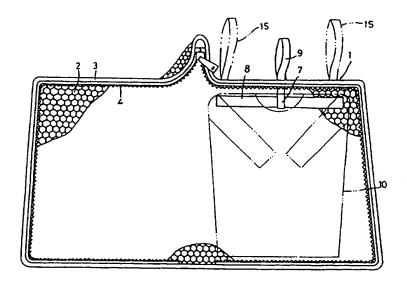
Susumu Nemoto Nemoto International Patent Office, Osaka (JP), 4th Floor, Tenman Yakenka Building, 2-12 Kitahama Higashi, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu, 540

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#### Abstract

A washing method using a washing net, and an auxiliary utensil for washing. An article (10) being washed, and a water permeable member (2) capable of defining a space for receiving the article, are overlapped one upon another by receiving the article (10) in the space, and are integrally rolled while overlapped. The article (10) being washed, and the water permeable member (2) in a rolled state are washed with water by a washing machine. The water permeable member (2) comprises a flexible, front side net, and a flexible, rear side net (32) positioned with a spacing from the front side net, the front side net and the rear side net being connected to each other clastically relatively and displaceably.



Agent:

Designated states:

## FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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### Technical field

The present invention relates to a laundering method which washes laundry in a washing machine and an auxiliary utensil for laundry.

#### Prior art

When washing laundry in a washing machine, a laundry net is used in order to prevent the laundry from losing its shape due to the water flow circulating within the washing machine.

As this laundry net, there is the spherical bag disclosed in Kokai Utility Model No. Sho 58[1983]-94480 and the semi-spherical bag disclosed in the gazette of Kokai Patent Application No. Hei 7[1995]-328279.

However, when laundry is stored in a spherical or semi-spherical bag and washed, the laundry may become unevenly biased or become rounded within the laundry net. Therefore, it is not possible to sufficiently prevent the laundry from losing its shape.

Also, as a washing machine which can prevent loss in the shape of the laundry, there is such a structure that laundry is placed on a net provided within the wash tub and water falls like a waterfall from the top of the laundry.

The conventional laundry net moves relatively with respect to the laundry on the inside part of the laundry net according to the impact received from the water flow or the centrifugal force received during the dewatering. Consequently, the laundry is abraded by the laundry net so damage, pilling, fuzz, etc., are generated, and loss in the shape of the laundry cannot be sufficiently prevented.

When water falls like a waterfall from the top of the laundry, loss in the shape of the laundry can be prevented but a special washing machine becomes necessary. Therefore, it is not possible to use a general purpose washing machine when washing laundry having a tendency for the shape to be lost, for example, a sweater for which dry cleaning is suggested, etc.

Furthermore, shrinking cannot be prevented in the conventional laundering method when the laundry is composed of fibers with a tendency to shrink.

Therefore, superimposing the laundry and the net by storing the laundry in a bag-shaped net, winding the net and the laundry into a roll shape in the superimposed state, and washing the laundry and the water-permeable member wound into a roll shape in a washing machine is disclosed in Kokai Utility Model No. Hei 5[1993]-13380.

However, the outermost peripheral section of the rolled laundry is abraded by the net if the laundry and the net are simply wound into a roll shape. Therefore, there is a problem of damage, pilling, fuzz, etc., being generated in the laundry.

The present invention aims to provide a laundering method and an auxiliary utensil for laundry capable of solving the aforementioned problems.

#### Presentation of the invention

The laundering method of the present invention can be applied, even when washing the laundry and the water-permeable member in a washing machine in a state of having been wound into a roll shape, by superimposing the laundry and the water-permeable member (capable of composing a space for storing the laundry) by storing the laundry in this storage space and winding together into a roll shape in this superimposed state. Furthermore, it is applied when folding together the laundry and the water-permeable member so that at least one fold is created in the superimposed state and winding this folded laundry and the water-permeable member into a roll shape. Also, it is applied when washing the laundry and the water-permeable member in the folded state by superimposing the laundry and the water-permeable member (capable of composing a space for storing the laundry) by storing the laundry in the storage space thereof and folding together so that not less than two folds can be created in the superimposed state.

According to the present invention, the laundry is washed in a state of having been wound into a roll shape, in a state of having been wound into a roll shape after being folded so that at least one fold is created, or in a state of having been folded so that not less than two folds are created. Consequently, uneven biasing, becoming rounded, loss in shape, and shrinkage of the laundry can be prevented.

When only the laundry is wound into a roll shape, the inner circumferential side and the outer circumferential side of the laundry directly contact. Also, when only the laundry is folded, the mutually opposing surfaces of the laundry directly contact. Consequently, water flow reaching the center of the laundry becomes insufficient so sufficient wash force cannot be obtained. On the contrary, according to the present invention, the laundry is wound into a roll shape or folded in a state of having superimposed the laundry and water-permeable member. Therefore, a water-permeable member is interposed between the inner circumferential side and the outer circumferential side of the rolled laundry or a water-permeable member is placed between the mutually opposing surfaces of the folded laundry. Consequently, sufficient wash force can be obtained since water flow reaching the center of laundry becomes sufficient.

Furthermore, the laundry and the water-permeable member are wound together so the laundry is not abraded by the water-permeable member. As a consequence, generation of damage, pilling, fuzz, etc., in the laundry can be prevented.

Also, the water-permeable member can compose a storage space and, by storing the laundry in this storage space, the water-permeable member and the laundry are superimposed. The laundry and the water-permeable member are wound into a roll shape or folded in this superimposed state. Consequently, the water-permeable member is placed reliably between the inner circumferential side and the outer circumferential side of the rolled laundry or between the

mutually opposing surfaces of the folded laundry. Consequently, sufficient wash force can be reliably obtained.

One characteristic of the method in the present invention is in the point that the water-permeable member is constituted by coupling the net on the front surface which has flexibility and the net on the back surface which has flexibility and is arranged by providing a distance from the net on the front surface to be elastically displaceable with respect to each other.

According to this constitution, the front surface net relatively elastically displaces with respect to the back surface net when impact from the water flow or centrifugal force for dewatering functions on the water-permeable member which covers the outer most circumferential section of the rolled laundry or the outer most side of the folded laundry. Consequently, relative movement of the back surface net with respect to the laundry can be suppressed. As a consequence, the outer most circumferential section of the rolled laundry or the outer most side section of the folded laundry being abraded by the net can be prevented. Therefore, generation of damage, pilling, fuzz, etc., of the laundry can be prevented.

The coupling means for the net on the front surface and the net on the back surface is composed of multiple linear parts capable of flexing and deforming elastically and, by one end of each linear part being coupled to the net on the front surface and the other end of each linear part being coupled to the net on the back surface, both nets are made elastically displaceable with respect to each other and it is preferable for a space to be formed between the linear parts.

As a consequence, water flow can pass through the space between the net on the front surface and the net on the back surface so the washing effect can be improved.

Another characteristic of the method in the present invention is in the point that the water-permeable member is constituted from a net which has flexibility and multiple linear parts which are capable of elastically flexing and deforming and coupled to one surface of the net, a space is mutually formed between the linear parts, and each linear part is arranged on the inside part of the storage space so that contact can be made with the laundry.

According to this constitution, the net is relatively elastically displaced with respect to the linear parts when the impact from the water flow or the centrifugal force for dewatering functions on the outer most circumferential section of the rolled laundry or on the water-permeable member which covers the outer most side of the folded laundry. Consequently, relative movement of the linear parts with respect to the laundry can be suppressed. As a consequence, the outer most circumferential section of the rolled laundry or the outer most section of the folded laundry being abraded by the net can be prevented. Therefore, generation of damage, pilling, and fuzz in the laundry can be prevented. Also, the water flow can pass through the space between the linear parts so the washing effect can be improved.

It is preferable for the linear parts to be composed into a ring shape by the two ends being coupled to the net. According to this, the linear parts do not become hitched to the laundry so the laundry being abraded by the linear parts can be prevented. Therefore, generation of damage, pilling, and fuzz in the laundry can be prevented.

In the method of the present invention, it is preferable to wind the laundry and the water-permeable member into a roll shape with a core material as the central axis. In accordance with this, it is possible to easily wind the laundry and the water-permeable member into a roll shape.

According to the laundry method of the present invention, generation of loss in the shape, shrinkage, damage, pilling, and fuzz in the laundry can be prevented while maintaining sufficient washing effect. Also, a laundry which tends for the shape to be lost, for example, a sweater for which dry cleaning is suggested, etc., can be washed with a general-purpose washing machine.

The auxiliary utensil for laundry applied with the present invention is provided with a water-permeable member capable of composing a space for storing laundry, this water-permeable member has flexibility so the water-permeable member and the laundry stored in the storage space thereof can be wound together into a roll shape in the superimposed state, and a means is provided for preventing the laundry and the water-permeable member wound into a roll shape from unfolding. Furthermore, it is applied to an auxiliary utensil for laundry capable of folding the water-permeable member and the laundry together so that at least one fold is created in the superimposed state or to be wound into a roll shape in the folded state. Also, the auxiliary utensil for laundry applied with the present invention is provided with a water-permeable member capable of composing a space for storing laundry, this water-permeable member has flexibility so that the water-permeable member and the laundry stored in the storage space thereof can be folded together so that not less than two folds can be created in the superimposed state, and a means is provided for restricting the folded laundry and water-permeable member from unfolding.

One characteristic of the auxiliary utensil for laundry in the present invention is in the point that the water-permeable member thereof is constituted by coupling the net on the front surface, which has flexibility, and the net on the back surface, which has flexibility, and arranged by providing a distance from the net on the front surface to be elastically displaceable with respect to each other. As the thickness of the water-permeable member, more than 2.0 mm is favorable and 2.0-15.0 mm is preferable. The coupling means for the net on the front surface and the net on the back surface is composed of multiple linear parts capable of flexing elastically and by one end of each linear part being coupled to the net on the front surface and the other end of each linear part being coupled to the net on the back surface, the two nets are made elastically displaceable with respect to each other and it is preferable for a space to be mutually formed between the linear parts.

Another characteristic of the auxiliary utensil for laundry in the present invention is in the point that a water-permeable member capable of composing a space for storing laundry is provided, this water-permeable member has flexibility so that the water-permeable member and the laundry stored in the storage space thereof can be wound together into a roll shape in the superimposed state, a means is provided to prevent the water-permeable member and the laundry wound into a roll shape from unfolding, this water-permeable member is composed from a net which has flexibility and multiple linear parts which are capable of elastically flexing and deforming and coupled to one surface of the net, space is mutually formed between the linear parts, and each linear part is arranged on the inside part of the storage space so that contact can be made with the laundry. It is preferable for the linear parts to be composed into a ring shape by the two ends being coupled to the net.

In the auxiliary utensil for laundry in the present invention, it is preferable to be able to couple the core material of the water-permeable member so as to become the center axis when winding the water-permeable member and the laundry into a roll shape.

According to the auxiliary utensil for laundry in the present invention, the aforementioned laundering method in the present invention can be applied.

## Brief description of the figures

Figure 1 is a frontal view in the unfolded state of the auxiliary utensil for laundry in the first embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a frontal view in the laundry stored state of the auxiliary utensil for laundry in the first embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a partial perspective view of the water-permeable member in the first embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4(1) is a partial cross sectional view showing the state prior to the relative displacement of the net on the front surface and the net on the back surface in the first embodiment of the present invention and Figure 4(2) is a partial cross section view showing the state after the relative displacement.

Figure 5 is a perspective view showing the middle of winding the laundry and the auxiliary utensil for laundry into a roll shape in the first embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the laundry and the auxiliary utensil for laundry wound into a roll shape in the first embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 7 is a cross sectional view of the main part in the laundry and auxiliary utensil for laundry wound into a roll shape in the first embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 8 is a perspective view at the middle of winding the laundry and the auxiliary utensil for laundry into a roll shape in a modified example of the present invention.

Figures 9(1), 9(2), and 9(3) are figures showing the member for restricting the unfolding of the laundry and the water-permeable member in the variants of the present invention.

Figure 10 is a frontal view in the unfolded state of the auxiliary utensil for laundry in the second embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 11(1) is a perspective view of the laundry and the auxiliary utensil for laundry used in an application example of the present invention and Figure 11(2) is a perspective view of the auxiliary utensil for laundry used in an application example of the present invention.

Figure 12(1) is a photograph substituting for a figure showing the fiber shape on the front surface of a wool sweater washed according to the method in the present invention and Figure 12(2) is a photograph substituting for a figure showing the fiber shape on the front surface of a wool sweater washed according to the conventional method.

Figure 13(1) is a perspective view of the folded laundry and the auxiliary utensil for laundry in the third embodiment of the present invention and Figure 13(2) is a perspective view of the folded laundry and auxiliary utensil for laundry in the fourth embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 14(1) is a perspective view of the folded laundry and the auxiliary utensil for laundry in the fifth embodiment of the present invention and Figure 14(2) is a perspective view of the folded laundry and the auxiliary utensil for laundry in the sixth embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 15(1) is a perspective view of the folded laundry and the auxiliary utensil for laundry in the seventh embodiment of the present invention and Figure 15(2) is a perspective view of the folded laundry and the auxiliary utensil for laundry in the eighth embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 16 is a partial perspective view of the water-permeable member in the ninth embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 17 is a partial cross section view of the water-permeable member in the ninth embodiment of the present invention.

## Embodiment of the present invention

The first embodiment of the present invention will be explained below by referring to Figures 1-7.

Auxiliary utensil (1) for laundry shown in Figure 1 is provided with water-permeable member (2) which has flexibility and can compose a space for storing laundry. This water-permeable member (2) is rectangular viewing from the top and the dimension in the longitudinal direction thereof is approximately double the dimension in the short direction. This water-permeable member (2) can be folded into two along the short direction at the center of the

longitudinal direction. Trimming part (3) made of fabric is attached at the periphery of this water-permeable member (2). Fastener (4) is attached to this trimming part (3). The major section between the periphery of water-permeable member (2) folded into two is closed with this fastener (4). Consequently, water-permeable member (2) is composed into a bag shape as shown in Figure 2. The inside part of this bag-shaped water-permeable member (2) composes a storage space for laundry (10). Laundry (10) is superimposed to water-permeable member (2) by being stored in this storage space.

A cylindrical hanger (core material) (8) can be coupled to this water-permeable member (2). Namely, this hanger (8) is inserted into ring (7) made of a fabric stitched to trimming part (3). Laundry (10) stored in the storage space can be hung on this hanger (8). Hanging ring (9) made of fabric is stitched to trimming part (3) so that a clothes line, pole, etc., for drying laundry (10) can be inserted.

As shown in Figure 3, water-permeable member (2) has net (31) on the front surface which has flexibility, net (32) on the back surface which has flexibility and arranged by providing a distance from net (31) on the front surface, and multiple linear parts (33) capable of elastically flexing and deforming. One end of each linear part (33) is coupled to net (31) on the front surface and the other end of each linear part (33) is coupled to net (32) on the back surface. Consequently, nets (31) and (32) can be elastically displaced with respect to each other. Namely, distance (D) of nets (31) and (32) in a state of not being elastically deformed as shown in Figure 4(1) is narrowed according to elastic flexing of linear parts (33) as shown in Figure 4(2). Space (35) is mutually formed between linear parts (33).

The mesh shape of nets (31) and (32) is hexagonal in this embodiment but it is not particularly restricted. All that is necessary as nets (31) and (32) is to have flexibility, but it is preferable to have a suitable softness so as not to damage the laundry. In this embodiment, nets (31) and (32) are composed by knitting yarns which [are] twisted multiple strands of synthetic resin filaments. All that is necessary as linear parts (33) is to be able to elastically flex and deform. In this embodiment, each linear part (33) is composed by mutually coupling a synthetic resin filament alternately to net (31) on the front surface and net (32) on the back surface. The synthetic resin filament composing linear parts (33) is thicker and has greater rigidity than the synthetic resin filament composing nets (31) and (32).

By storing laundry (10) in the storage space, water-permeable member (2) and laundry (10) are superimposed. As shown in Figure 5, water-permeable member (2) and laundry (10) are wound together in a state of having been superimposed. Consequently, water-permeable member (2) and laundry (10) take on a roll shape as shown in Figure 6. At this time, it is possible to wind laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) with aforementioned hanger (8) as the center axis. As shown in Figure 8, it is possible to wind laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) into

two rolls. It is preferable to wind laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) into at least three layers.

As shown in Figure 6, net-shaped rubber band (15) which has water permeability is wound on water-permeable member (2) and laundry (10) which are wound into a roll shape. As a consequence, unfolding of laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) wound into a roll shape is prevented. This rubber band (15) can be separate from water-permeable member (2), or it can be coupled to water-permeable member (2) as indicated with the alternate long and two short dashed lines in Figures 1 and 2.

The unfolding-preventing means of laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) wound into a roll shape is not restricted in particular. For example, button, hook, cord, planar fastener, rubber, pin, zipper, clothes pin, etc., can be used. For example, female part (16a) of a planar fastener is provided to one surface of band main body (16) and male part (16b) of a planar fastener [is provided] to the other surface as shown in Figure 9(1). Attachment-coupling means (17a) which has multiple openings capable of inserting one end of band main body (17) to the other end of band main body (17) as shown in Figure 9(2). Female coupling means (18a) is attached to one end of band main body (18) and detachable male coupling means (18b) is attached to the other end of female coupling means (18a) as shown in Figure 9(3). Each unfolding-preventing means has a net-shaped structure, etc., so as to have water permeability. Consequently, a drop in the wash force can be prevented.

By using aforementioned auxiliary utensil (1) for laundry, laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) can be wound together into a roll shape in the superimposed state, then unfolding of laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) is prevented with rubber band (15), then laundry (10) and water-permeable member (12) wound into a roll shape is washed thereafter in washing machine (20) as shown in Figure 6.

Consequently, laundry (10) is washed in a state of having been wound into a roll shape so it is possible to prevent laundry (10) from being unevenly biased, becoming rounded, the shape being lost, and shrinkage during the washing in washing machine (20).

Also, the inner circumferential side and the outer circumferential side of rolled laundry (10) directly contact when only laundry (10) is wound into a roll and washed. In this case, sufficient wash force cannot be manifested due to the water flow reaching the center of laundry (10) being insufficient. On the contrary, according to the aforementioned constitution, laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) are wound into a roll shape in the superimposed state so water-permeable member (2) is interposed between inner circumferential side (10a) and outer circumferential side (10b) of rolled laundry (10) as shown in Figure 7. Consequently, sufficient washing effect can be manifested since the water flow reaching the center of laundry (10) becomes sufficient. Furthermore, laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) are wound

together so laundry (10) is not abraded by water-permeable member (2). Consequently, generation of damage, pilling, and fuzz in laundry (10) can be prevented.

Water-permeable member (2) composes a storage space. By laundry (10) being stored in this storage space, laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) are superimposed. Laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) are wound into a roll shape in this superimposed state so water-permeable member (2) is placed reliably between inner circumferential side (10a) and outer circumferential side (10b) of rolled laundry (10). Consequently, sufficient washing effect can be reliably manifested.

Figure 10 shows auxiliary utensil (1') for laundry in the second embodiment of the present invention. The difference from the first embodiment is that male button (4a) and female button (4b) are attached to both edges along the short direction of trimming part (3) instead of fastener (4). Also, hanger (8) is coupled at approximately the center position in the longitudinal direction of water-permeable member (2). This water-permeable member (2) is folded along the short direction at a position of about ¼ from one end in the longitudinal direction thereof and at a position of about ¼ from the other end in the longitudinal direction. The two edges along the short direction of water-permeable member (2) are mutually coupled via buttons (4a) and (4b). Consequently, laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) are superimposed then wound into a roll shape. The rest is the same as the first embodiment and the same parts are indicated with the same symbols.

Figure 13(1) shows the third embodiment of the present invention. In this third embodiment, auxiliary utensils (1) and (1') for laundry similar to the first embodiment or the second embodiment are used. The difference from the first and second embodiments is that laundry (10) stored in the storage space and water-permeable member (2) superimposed to laundry (10) are folded together so that two folds (50) are created instead of being wound into a roll shape. Unfolding of this folded laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) is restricted with a restricting means such as rubber band, etc., similar to the first embodiment. Laundry (10) is washed along with water-permeable member (2) in this folded state in a washing machine. Folds (50) are mutually arranged at a parallel. Also, the trough side of one fold (50) is arranged on one surface of water-permeable member (2) and the trough side of other fold (50) is arranged on the side opposite from the one surface of water-permeable member (2). The rest is composed in the same manner as the aforementioned embodiments and the same parts are indicated with the same codes.

Figure 13(2) shows the fourth embodiment of the present invention. The difference from the third embodiment is that the trough sides of the two mutually parallel folds (50) are arranged on the same surface of water-permeable member (2). The rest is the same as the third embodiment.

Figure 14(1) shows the fifth embodiment of the present invention. The difference from the third embodiment is that the number of mutually parallel folds (50) is three. Also, one trough side of the mutually adjacent folds (50) is arranged on one surface of water-permeable member (2) and the other trough side is arranged on the side opposite from the one surface of water-permeable member (2). The rest is the same as the third embodiment.

Figure 14(2) shows the sixth embodiment of the present invention. The difference from the fifth embodiment is that the trough side of the mutually adjacent folds (50) are both arranged on the same surface of water-permeable member (2). The rest is the same as the fifth embodiment.

Figure 15(1) shows the seventh embodiment of the present invention. The difference from the third embodiment is that the number of mutually parallel folds (50) is four. Also, one trough side of the mutually adjacent folds (50) is arranged on one surface of water-permeable member (2) and the other trough side is arranged on side opposite of the one surface of water-permeable member (2). The rest is the same as the third embodiment.

Figure 15(2) shows the eighth embodiment of the present invention. The difference from the third embodiment is that the folds (50) are formed on two straight lines which cross in the unfolded state of water-permeable member (2) and laundry (10). The trough side of fold (50) on one straight line is arranged on one surface of water-permeable member (2). Fold (50) on the other straight line is divided into two at the center point and one trough side of this divided fold (50) is arranged on one surface of water-permeable member (2) and the other trough side is arranged on the side opposite of the one surface of water-permeable member (2). The rest is the same as the third embodiment.

According to the third to eighth embodiments, laundry (10) is washed in a folded state so that not less than two folds are created. Consequently, laundry (10) being unevenly biased, becoming rounded, losing its shape, and shrinking can be prevented when washed in a washing machine. Also, when only laundry (10) is folded and washed, the opposing surfaces of laundry (10) which was folded contact directly, thus water flow reaching the center of laundry (10) becomes insufficient. Consequently, sufficient washing effect cannot be manifested. On the contrary, according to the aforementioned constitution, laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) are folded in the superimposed state so water-permeable member (2) is placed between the opposing surfaces thereof. Therefore, water flow reaching the center of laundry (10) does not become insufficient and sufficient washing effect can be manifested. Furthermore, laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) are folded together so laundry (10) is not abraded by water-permeable member (2). Consequently, generation of damage, pilling, and fuzz in laundry (10) can be prevented. Also, water-permeable member (2) and laundry (10) stored in the storage space composed from water-permeable member (2) are folded. Consequently, water-

permeable member (2) is placed reliably between the opposing surfaces of folded laundry (10) so sufficient washing effect can be reliably manifested.

Water-permeable member (2) in the aforementioned embodiments is composed by coupling net (31) on the front surface which has flexibility and net (32) on the back surface which has flexibility and arranged by being distanced from net (31) on the front surface to be elastically displaceable with respect to each other. Therefore, in the first and second embodiments, front surface net (31) relativity elastically displaces with respect to back surface net (32) due to the impact from the water flow or centrifugal force during the dewatering functioning on water-permeable member (2) which covers the outer most circumferential section of rolled laundry (10). Consequently, relative movement of back surface net (32) with respect to laundry (10) can be suppressed. Also, in the third to eighth embodiments, front surface net (31) relativity elastically displaces with respect to back surface net (32) due to the impact from the water flow or centrifugal force during the dewatering functioning on water-permeable member (2) which covers the outer most side section of folded laundry (10). Consequently, relative movement of back surface net (32) with respect to laundry (10) can be suppressed. Therefore, it is possible to prevent the outer most peripheral section of folded laundry (10) in the first and second embodiments and the outer most side section of folded laundry (10) in third to eighth embodiments from being abraded by net (31) and generation of damage, pilling, and fuzz can be prevented.

The coupling means for front surface net (31) and back surface net (32) is composed from multiple linear parts (33) capable of elastically flexing and deforming. One end of each linear part (33) is coupled to front surface net (31) and the other end is coupled to back surface net (32). Therefore, nets (31) and (32) are made elastically displaceable with respect to each other and space (35) is mutually formed between linear parts (33). Consequently, the water flow can pass through space (35) between front surface net (31) and back surface net (32) so the washing effect can be improved.

In the first and second embodiments, laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) are wound into a roll shape with hanger (8) as the center axis. Consequently, laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) can be wound easily into a roll shape.

It is possible to use auxiliary utensils (1) and (1') for laundry similar to the first and second embodiments, superimpose water-permeable member (2) and laundry (10) by storing laundry (10) in the storage space, fold laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) together in this superimposed state so that at least one fold is created, wind the folded laundry and water-permeable member together into a roll shape, restrict unfolding of laundry (10) and water-permeable member (2) wound into a roll shape with a restricting means, such as a rubber band, etc., similar to the first embodiment, and wash both laundry (10) and water-permeable member

(2) in a washing machine in this state of having been folded and wound into a roll shape. By this method, it is possible to manifest the same effects as the aforementioned embodiments.

Also, it is possible to use water-permeable member (102) in the ninth embodiment shown in Figures 16 and 17 instead of the aforementioned water-permeable member (2). This water-permeable member (102) is composed of net (131) which has flexibility and multiple linear parts (133) which are capable of elastically flexing and deforming and coupled to one surface of net (131). This linear part (133) is composed into a ring shape by both ends being coupled to net (131). A space is mutually formed between linear parts (133). When composing the inside part of this water-permeable member (102) into a space for storing laundry, the linear part (133) side thereof becomes the inside. Consequently, the linear part (133) side contacts laundry (10) stored in the storage space and laundry (10) and water-permeable member (102) are superimposed.

The mesh shape of this net (131) is composed into a diamond shape in this embodiment but it is not particularly restricted. All that is necessary for net (131) is to be a net which has flexibility but which has a suitable softness which does not damage the laundry is preferable. In this embodiment, net (131) is composed by knitting a yarn which [is] twisted multiple strands of synthetic resin filaments. All that is necessary for linear part (133) is to be able to elastically flex and deform. In this embodiment, linear part (133) is composed by coupling both ends of a synthetic resin filament which is thicker and has greater rigidity than the synthetic resin filament composing net (131) to net (131).

The present invention is not restricted to the aforementioned embodiments. For example, the mesh shape of the net composing water-permeable member (2) is not restricted in particular.

### Application Example 1

In order to compare the wash force of the laundering method in the present invention and the conventional laundering method, 10 sheets of wet artificially contaminated cloths made by the Association of Laundry Science were stitched to an apparel (wool sweater) and these 10 sheets of artificially contaminated cloths and apparel were washed in the following conditions with a fully automated washing machine (made by Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. NA-F60K1).

## (Washing condition)

Concentration of detergent: 0.14 wt %

Detergent used: Marketed liquid detergent

Water temperature: 20°C Water hardness: 4° DH

Washing course: Standard course Drying: 20°C, 65% RH, flat drying

The laundering method was 1-4 below.

Laundering method 1: The laundry was washed as is without using an auxiliary utensil for laundry.

Laundering method 2: Auxiliary utensil (1) for laundry in the first embodiment was used, water-permeable member (2) and laundry (10) were wound together into a roll shape in the superimposed state like in the first embodiment, unfolding of water-permeable member (2) and laundry (10) wound into a roll shape was restricted, and water-permeable member (2) and laundry (10) were both washed in the washing machine in this restricted state. The thickness of water-permeable member (2) was 4.0 mm.

Laundering method 3: Using an auxiliary utensil for laundry with the same constitution as the first embodiment, except for using a water-permeable member composed from one layer of net instead of water-permeable member (2) in the first embodiment, the water-permeable member and laundry (10) were superimposed, the water-permeable member and laundry (10) were wound together into a roll shape in this superimposed state, unfolding of the water-permeable member and the laundry wound into a roll shape was restricted, and both the water-permeable member and the laundry were washed in the washing machine in this restricted state. The thickness of one layer of net which is the water-permeable member was 2.2 mm.

Laundering method 4: Only laundry (10) was wound into a roll shape as shown in Figure 11(1), laundry (10) wound into a roll shape was stored in bag-shaped auxiliary utensil (50) for laundry composed of one layer of net, and was washed in the washing machine in a state of having closed the opening of auxiliary utensil (50) for laundry with fastener (52) as shown in Figure 11(2).

Laundering method 5: Using an auxiliary utensil for laundry with the same constitution as the first embodiment, except for useing a water-permeable member composed of one layer of net instead of water-permeable member (2) in the first embodiment, the water-permeable member and laundry (10) were superimposed, the water-permeable member and laundry (10) were wound together into a roll shape in the superimposed state, unfolding of the water-permeable member and the laundry wound into a roll shape was restricted, and the water-permeable member and the laundry were both washed in the washing machine in this restricted state. The thickness of one layer of net which is the water-permeable member was 0.75 mm.

The reflectivity in 550 nm of contaminated cloth before and after the washing and the original cloth before the contamination were measured with a color difference meter (Z-300A made by Nippon Denshoku K.K.) and the wash rate (%) was obtained with the following equation. This wash rate corresponds to wash force.

Wash rate = 100 x (reflectivity of contaminated cloth after washing - reflectivity of unwashed contaminated cloth) / (reflectivity of white cloth (before contamination) - reflectivity of unwashed contaminated cloth)

The average wash rate for 10 sheets of contaminated cloths according to each laundering method was as follows.

Laundering method 1 ... 18%

Laundering method 2 ... 15%

Laundering method 3 ... 12%

Laundering method 4 ... 8%

Laundering method 5 ... 8.5%

#### Application Example 2

In order to compare the extent of shrinkage in the laundry in the laundering method of the present invention and the conventional laundering method, washing was executed in the same manner as laundering methods 1-4 in Application Example 1 in the following washing conditions, using wool sweater adjusted as follows as the test cloth, and the rate of area shrinkage was obtained.

## (1) Preparation of the test cloth

Multiple size L wool sweaters were humidity conditioned for more than 12 h at 20°C, 65% RH. Marks were applied to each wool sweater at four locations with an oil-based sign pen so as to become a square in which one side is 15 cm. A number was noted on each wool sweater. The length in the lateral direction and the length in the vertical direction between the respective marks were measured and each length was considered as the original length. Since multiple wool sweaters were used, the horizontal direction and vertical direction were cut from the weaving direction of the fibers so as to be coordinated.

### (2) Washing conditions

Using a fully automated washing machine (NA-F60K1 model made by Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), each of the wool sweaters prepared in (1) above was washed according to the standard course. The concentration of the detergent was 0.14 wt % and the water temperature was 20°C. After completing the wash, it was dried and moisture conditioned for 24 h at 20°C, 65% RH. Thereafter, the lengths were measured again regarding the marks applied in (1) above and the rate of shrinkage was calculated from these values. Furthermore, the rate of area shrinkage was obtained. The rate of shrinkage was obtained separately for the vertical direction and the horizontal direction.

The rate of shrinkage and rate of area shrinkage were calculated according to the following equations. In each wool sweater, the measured value (original length) before the wash was considered as R.M., the measured value of after the wash as W.M, and the average values of the measured results were used. Also, in the rate of shrinkage, the rate of shrinkage in the horizontal direction in each sweater was considered as W.S. and the rate of shrinkage in the vertical direction as L.S.

## (Calculation for rate of shrinkage)

Rate of shrinkage (%) = 100 x (R.M. - W.M.) / R.M.

(Calculation of rate of area shrinkage)

Rate of area shrinkage (%) =  $(W.S. + L.S.) - (W.S. \times L.S.) / 100$ 

The rate of area shrinkage according to each laundering method was as follows.

Laundering method 1 ... 15.2%

Laundering method 2 ... 2.8%

Laundering method 3 ... 3.1%

Laundering method 4 ... 3.0%

### **Application Example 3**

In order to compare the generation of fuzz in the laundry in the laundering method of the present invention and the conventional laundering method, wash was executed in a double-tub washing machine for 3 min at a water temperature of 20°C and in weak water flow and 1 min of rinsing according to laundering methods 1 and 2 in the aforementioned Application Example 1, 30 sec of dewatering was executed twice, and after completing the wash, it was dried at 20°C, 65% RH and the surface state was compared.

Figure 12(1) shows the surface state (magnification of 22.5) of the wool sweater washed according to laundering method 2 of the present invention and Figure 12(2) shows the surface state (magnification of 22.5) of the wool sweater washed according to the conventional laundering method 1.

## **Application Example 4**

In order to compare the generation of a crease in the laundering method of the present invention and the conventional laundering method, a wool sweater was washed in the same washing conditions as Application Example 1 with a fully automated washing machine (NA-F60K1 made by Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.)

The laundering method below was 1-3.

Laundering method 1: Laundry was placed in the auxiliary utensil for laundry in the first embodiment and was washed as is without being folded or wound into a roll shape.

Laundering method 2: Laundry was placed in auxiliary utensil (1) for laundry in the first embodiment, the laundry and the water-permeable member were folded together so that a least two folds are created in the superimposed state, unfolding of the folded laundry and water-permeable member was restricted, and the laundry and the water-permeable member were both washed in the washing machine in this restricted state in the same manner as the fourth embodiment shown in Figure 13(2).

Laundering method 3: Laundry was placed in auxiliary utensil (1) for laundry in the first embodiment, the laundry and the water-permeable member were folded together so that three folds are created in the superimposed state, unfolding of the folded laundry and water-permeable member was restricted, and laundry and the water-permeable member were both washed in the washing machine in this restricted state in the same manner as the sixth embodiment shown in Figure 14(2).

In laundering method 1, creases were created throughout the laundry. On the contrary, in laundering methods 2 and 3 related to the present invention, there was only a slight crease which did not stand out. Also, in laundering methods 2 and 3, there was less of a crease in laundering method 3 which had a greater number of folds.

#### Application Example 5

In order to compare the shrinkage in the laundry in the laundering method of the present invention and the conventional laundering method, washing was executed in the same manner as laundering methods 1-3 in Application Example 4 at the same washing conditions as Application Example 2 using a wool sweater adjusted in the same manner as in Application Example 2 and the rate of area shrinkage was obtained in the same manner as in Application Example 2.

The rate of area shrinkage according to each laundering method was as follows.

Laundering method 1 ... 8%

Laundering method 2 ... 4%

Laundering method 3 ... 3%

From the aforementioned Application Example 1, it is possible to recognize that in laundering methods 2 and 3 of the present invention, a drop in the wash force is minimal from laundering method 1, which does not use an auxiliary utensil for laundry, and sufficient wash force is manifested when compared with laundering method 4, which only wound the laundry into a roll shape and stored it in the auxiliary utensil for laundry.

Also, from the aforementioned Application Example 2, it is possible to recognize that in laundering methods 2 and 3 of the present invention, the shrinkage of the laundry is greatly improved compared to laundering method 1, which does not use an auxiliary utensil for laundry.

Also, from the aforementioned Application Example 3, it is possible to recognize that in laundering method 2 of the present invention, generation of fuzz in the laundry is greatly improved compared to laundering method 1, which does not use an auxiliary utensil for laundry.

Also, from the aforementioned Application Example 4, it was recognized that in laundering methods 2 and 3 of the present invention, it is possible to reduce the generation of creases and prevent uneven biasing when compared with conventional laundering method 1, which simply places the laundry in the auxiliary utensil for laundry by folding the laundry and the water-permeable member and restricting the movement of laundry with respect to the auxiliary utensil for laundry with the folds.

Also, from the aforementioned Application Example 5, it is possible to recognize that in laundering methods 2 and 3 of the present invention, shrinkage of the laundry is greatly improved compared with laundering method 1, which simply places the laundry in the auxiliary utensil for laundry.

## **Claims**

- 1. A laundry method characterized by the fact that, when superimposing laundry and a water-permeable member capable of composing a space for holding the laundry by holding the laundry in the storage space thereof, integrally winding this into a roll shape in the superimposed state, and washing the laundry and the water-permeable member in a washing machine in a state of having been wound into a roll shape, the water-permeable member is composed by coupling flexible net on the front surface and flexible net on the back surface arranged by being separated from the net on the front surface so as to be elastically displaceable relatively.
- 2. A laundry method noted in Claim 1 in which the coupling means of the net on the front surface and the net on the back surface is composed of several linear parts capable of elastically flexing and deforming, the two nets are made relatively elastically displaceable by one end of each linear part being coupled to the net on the front surface and the other end being coupled to the net on the back surface, forming a space between the linear parts.
- 3. A laundry method characterized by the fact that, when superimposing the laundry and the water-permeable member capable of composing a space for holding the laundry by holding the laundry in the storage space thereof, integrally winding into a roll shape in the superimposed state, and washing the laundry and the water-permeable member in a washing machine in a state of having been wound into a roll shape, the water-permeable member is composed of net having flexibility and several linear parts capable of elastically flexing and deforming and coupled to

one surface of this net, a space is formed between the linear parts, and the laundry and the water-permeable member are superimposed so that the linear part side contacts the laundry.

- 4. A laundry method noted in Claim 3, in which the linear parts are composed into a ring shape by their two ends being coupled to the net.
- 5. A laundry method noted in one of Claims 1-4, which integrally folds the laundry and the water-permeable member in the superimposed state so that at least one fold is created and winds the folded laundry and the water-permeable member into a roll shape.
- 6. A laundry method noted in Claim 1 or 3, which winds the laundry and the water-permeable member into a roll shape with the core material as the center shaft.
- 7. A laundry method characterized by the fact that, when superimposing laundry and a water-permeable member capable of composing a space for holding the laundry by holding the laundry in the storage space thereof, integrally folding in the superimposed state so that not less than two folds are created, and washing the laundry and the water-permeable member in a washing machine in the folded state, the water-permeable member is composed by coupling the flexible net on the front surface and flexible net on the back surface arranged by being separated from the net on the front surface so as to be elastically displaceable with respect to each other.
- 8. A laundry method noted in Claim 7, in which the coupling means of the net on the front surface and the net on the back surface is composed of several linear parts capable of elastically flexing and deforming, the two nets are made relatively elastically displaceable by one end of each linear part being coupled to the net on the front surface and the other end being coupled to the net on the back surface, and a space is mutually formed between the linear parts.
- 9. A laundry method characterized by the fact that, when superimposing laundry and a water-permeable member capable of composing a space for holding the laundry by holding the laundry in the storage space thereof, integrally folding in the superimposed state so that not less than two folds are created, and washing the laundry and the water-permeable member in a washing machine in the folded state, the water-permeable member is composed from flexible net and several linear parts capable of elastically flexing and deforming and coupled to one surface of the net, a space is formed between the linear parts, and the laundry and the water-permeable member are superimposed so that the linear part side contacts the laundry.
- 10. A laundry method noted in Claim 9, in which the linear parts are composed into a ring shape by the two ends being coupled to the net.
- 11. An auxiliary utensil for laundry characterized by the fact that a water-permeable member capable of composing a space for holding laundry is provided, the water-permeable member has flexibility so that the laundry held in the storage space thereof and the water-permeable member can be integrally wound into a roll shape in the superimposed state, a means is provided for preventing the laundry and the water-permeable member wound into a roll shape

from becoming unfolded, and the water-permeable member is composed by coupling flexible net on the front surface and flexible net on the back surface arranged by being separated from the net on the front surface so as to be elastically displaceable with respect to each other.

- 12. An auxiliary utensil for laundry noted in Claim 11, characterized by the fact that the coupling means of the net on the front surface and the net on the back surface is composed of several linear parts capable of elastically flexing and deforming, the two nets are made elastically displaceable with respect to each other by the one end of each linear part being coupled to the net on the front surface and the other end of each linear part being coupled to the net on the back surface, and a space is formed between the linear parts.
- 13. An auxiliary utensil for laundry which is provided with a water-permeable member capable of composing a space for holding laundry, the water-permeable member has flexibility so that the laundry held in the storage space and the water-permeable member can be integrally wound into a roll shape in the superimposed state, a means is provided for preventing the laundry and the water-permeable member wound into a roll shape from becoming unfolded, the water-permeable member is composed from flexible net and several linear parts capable of elastically flexing and deforming and coupled to one surface of the net, a space is formed between the linear parts, and each linear part is arranged on the inside of the storage space so that contact can be made with the laundry.
- 14. An auxiliary utensil for laundry noted in Claim 13, in which the linear parts are composed into a ring shape by their two ends being coupled to the net.
- 15. An auxiliary utensil for laundry noted in one of Claims 11-14, capable of coupling a core material to the water-permeable member so as to become the center shaft when winding the laundry and the water-permeable member into a roll shape.
- 16. An auxiliary utensil for laundry noted in Claim 11 or 13, capable of integrally folding the water-permeable member and the laundry so that at least one fold is created in the superimposed state and capable of winding into a roll shape in the folded state.
- 17. An auxiliary utensil for laundry characterized by the fact that a water-permeable member capable of composing a space for holding laundry is provided, the water-permeable member has flexibility so that the laundry held in the storage space and the water-permeable member can be integrally folded so that not less than two folds are created in the superimposed state, a means is provided for regulating the folded laundry and water-permeable member from becoming unfolded, and the water-permeable member is composed by coupling flexible net on the front surface and flexible net on the back surface arranged by being separated from the net on the front surface so as to be elastically displaceable with respect to each other.
- 18. An auxiliary utensil for laundry noted in Claim 17, characterized by the fact that the coupling means of the net on the front surface and the net on the back surface is composed of

several linear parts capable of elastically flexing and deforming, the two nets are made elastically displaceable with respect to each other by one end of each linear part being coupled to the net on the front surface and the other end of each linear part being coupled to the net on the back surface, and a space is formed between the linear parts.

- 19. An auxiliary utensil for laundry which is provided with a water-permeable member capable of composing a space for holding laundry, the water-permeable member has flexibility so that the laundry held in the storage space and the water-permeable member can be integrally folded so that not less than two folds are created in the superimposed state, a means is provided for regulating the folded laundry and the water-permeable member from becoming unfolded, the water-permeable member is composed of flexible net and several linear parts capable of elastically flexing and deforming and coupled to one surface of the net, a space is formed between the linear parts and each linear part is arranged on the inside of the storage space so that contact can be made with the laundry.
- 20. An auxiliary utensil for laundry noted in Claim 19 in which the linear parts are composed into a ring shape by their two ends being coupled to the net.

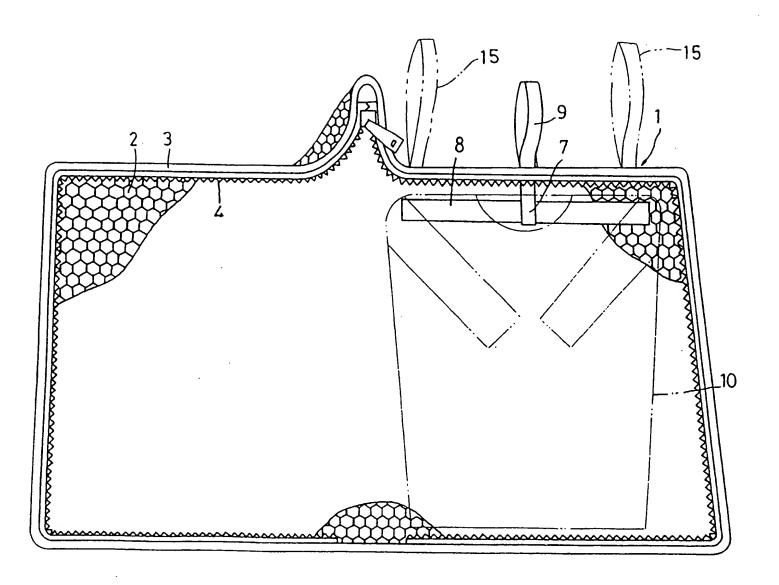


Figure 1

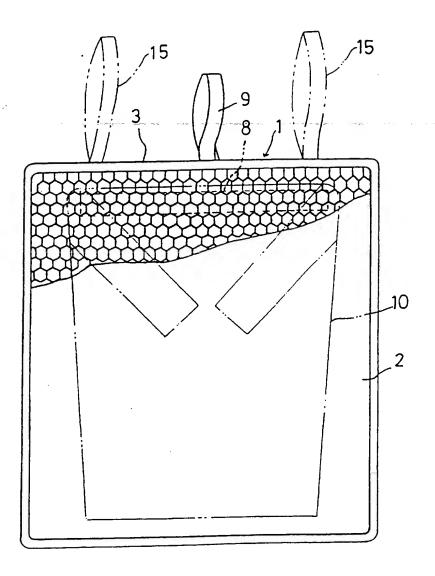


Figure 2

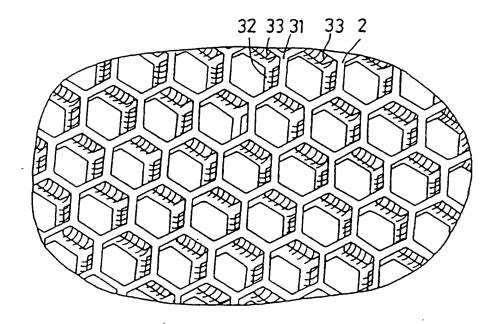


Figure 3

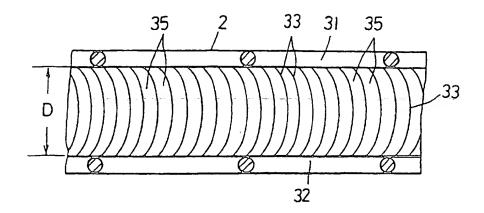


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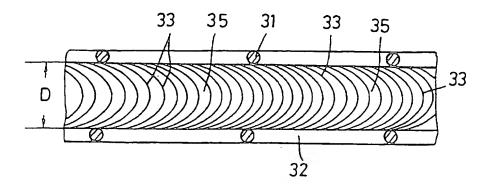


Figure 4 (2)

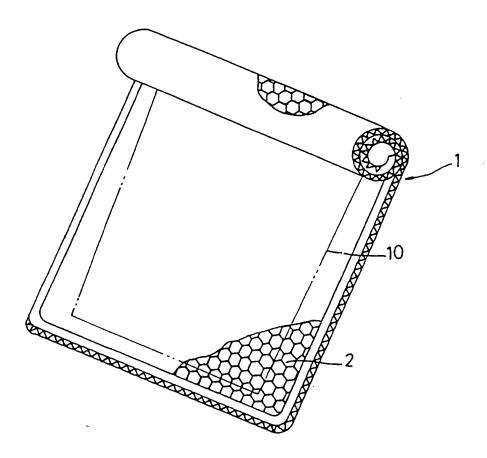
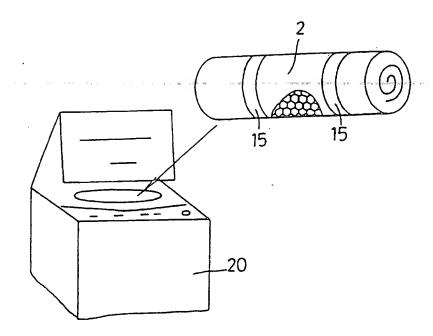


Figure 5

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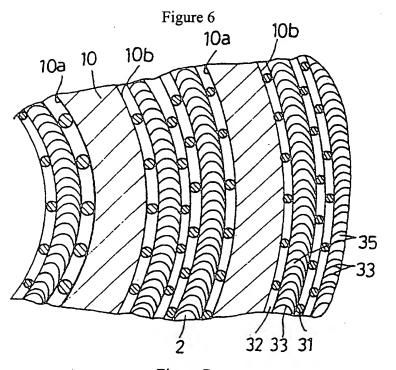


Figure 7

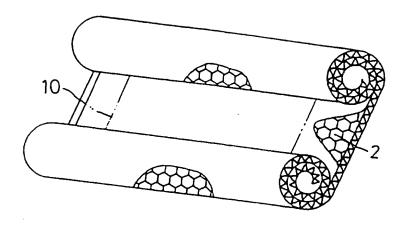


Figure 8

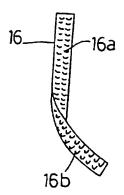


Figure 9 (1)



Figure 9 (2)

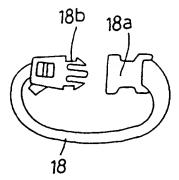


Figure 9 (3)

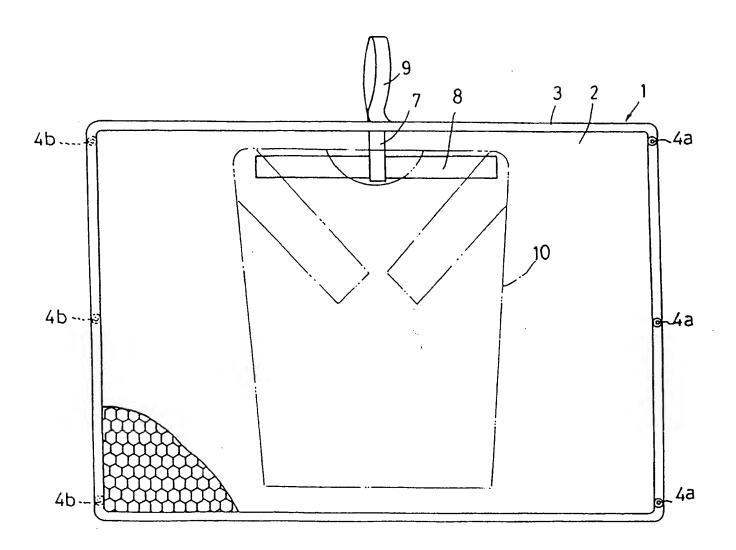


Figure 10

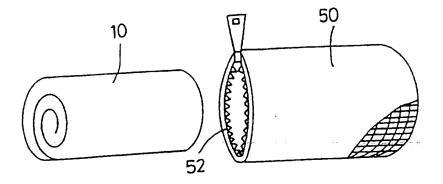


Figure 11 (1)

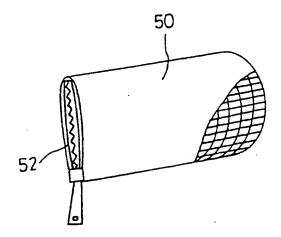


Figure 11 (2)



Figure 12 (1)

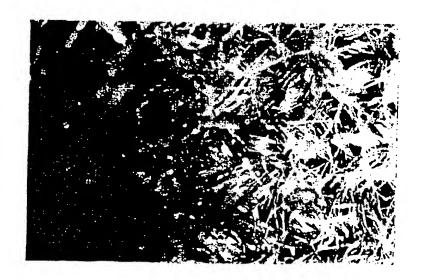


Figure 12 (2)

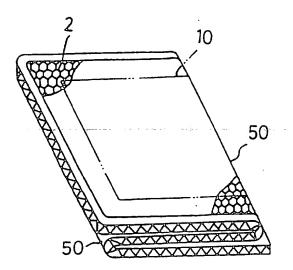


Figure 13 (1)

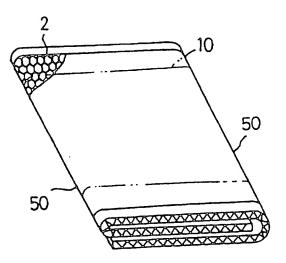


Figure 13 (2)

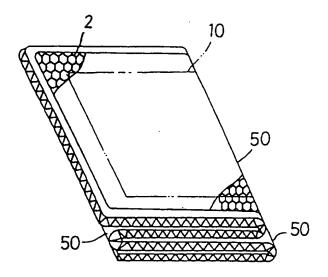


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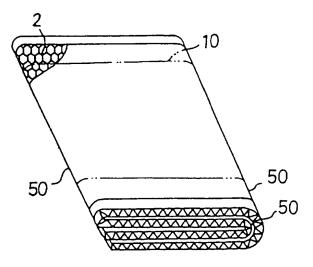


Figure 14 (2)

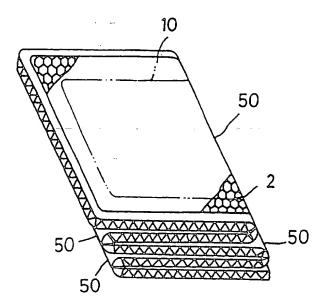


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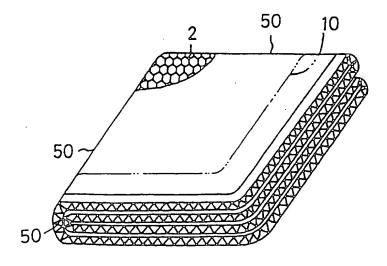


Figure 15 (2)

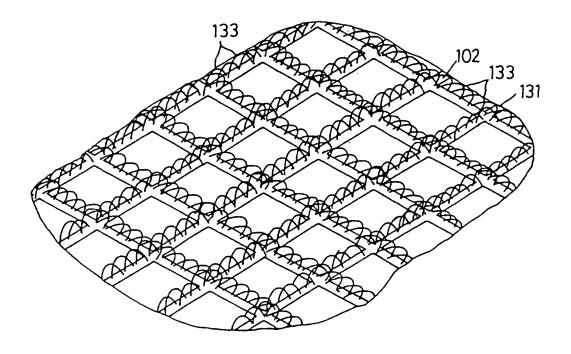


Figure 16

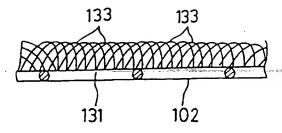


Figure 17

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP97/02538

	<u> </u>		0197702338	
	ASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER			
Int	. Cl <sup>6</sup> D06F35/00, B65D30/0	06		
Accordin	g to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to I	both national classification and IPC		
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Minimum	documentation searched (classification system follows	ed by classification symbols)		
	Cl <sup>6</sup> D06F35/00, B65D30/0			
Jit Kok	ation searched other than minimum documentation to t suyo Shinan Koho ai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho oku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	the extent that such documents are included in 1926 - 1997 1971 - 1995 1994 - 1997	the fields searched	
Electronic	data base consulted during the international search (na	me of data base and, where practicable, search	terms used)	
	·			
C DOC	UMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, when		Relevant to claim No.	
	JP, 6-312084, A (K.K. Dai)			
Y	November 8, 1994 (08. 11. Par. No. (0040), lines 1		1, 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17,	
A	Par. No. (0040), lines 1 t (Family: none)	to 10	18 5, 6, 15, 16	
Y	JP, 7-12083, U (Daikoku Ko February 28, 1995 (28. 02. Par. No. (0007), lines 3 t	95),	3, 9, 13, 19	
A	Par. No. (0007), lines 3 t (Family: none)	:o 5	4-6, 10, 14-16, 20	
Y	JP, 5-13380, U (Kumiko Sou February 23, 1993 (23. 02. (Claim 1)		1-3, 11, 12, 13	
A	(Claim 1) (Family: none)		4-6, 14-16	
X Further	r documents are listed in the continuation of Box C	See patent family annex.		
Special categories of cited documents:  "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand to be of particular relevance.  "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention				
"E" earlier do "L" document cited to	cument but published on or after the international filing dat 1 which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is establish the publication date of another citation or othe	considered novel or cannot be conside	ered to involve an inventive	
or document means	:2508 (as specified) t referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or othe	"Y" document of particular relevance; the considered to involve an inventive a combined with one or more other such displaying to a person chilled in the particular in the constant of the co	step when the document is ocuments, such combination	
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	rual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search		
Octo	ber 17, 1997 (17. 10. 97)	October 28, 1997 (	28. 10. 97)	
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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP97/02538

		101/0	JP97/02538
C (Continu	ation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Calegory®	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages		Relevant to claim N
	JP, 7-289778, A (K.K. Sanai), November 7, 1995 (07. 11. 95), Par. No. (0013), lines 1 to 7		7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19
A	Par. No. (0013), lines 1 to 7 (Family: none)		10, 16, 20
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